BLAME!

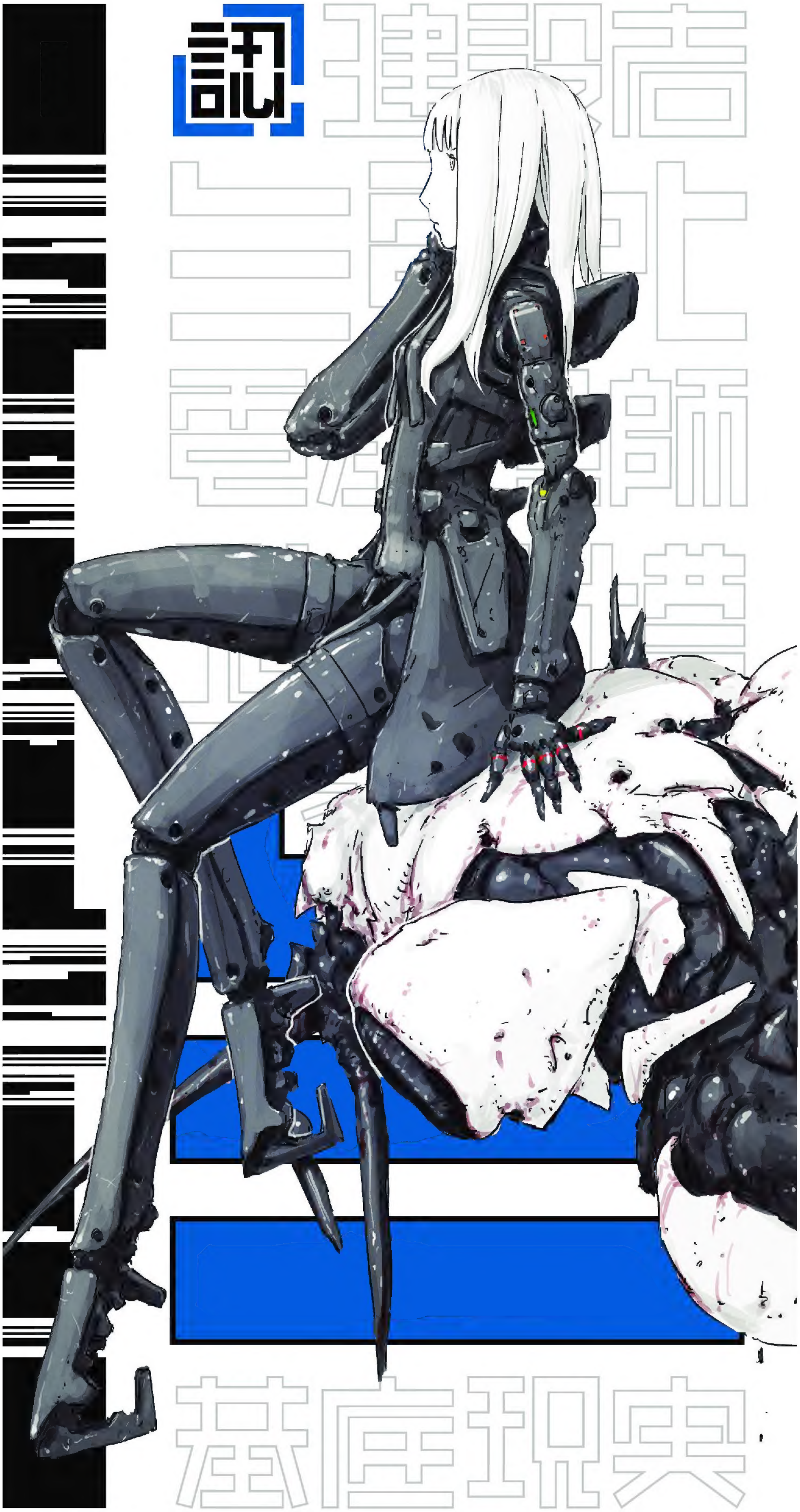
2

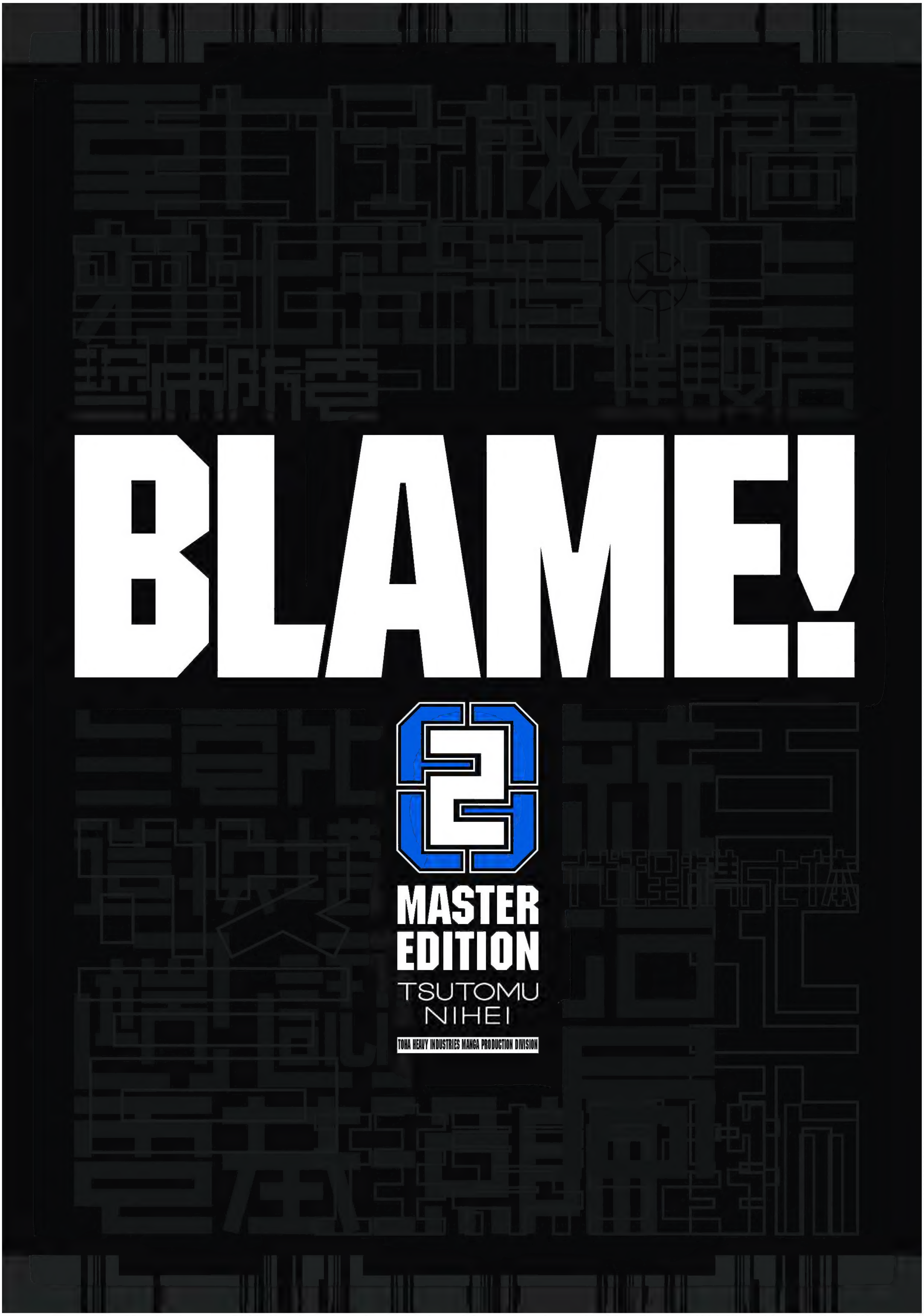
OPEN

MASTER EDITION

TSUTOMU
NIHEI

TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES MANGA PRODUCTION DIVISION





BLAME!

2

MASTER EDITION

TSUTOMU NIHEI

TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES MANGA PRODUCTION DIVISION

BLAME! 2 MASTER EDITION

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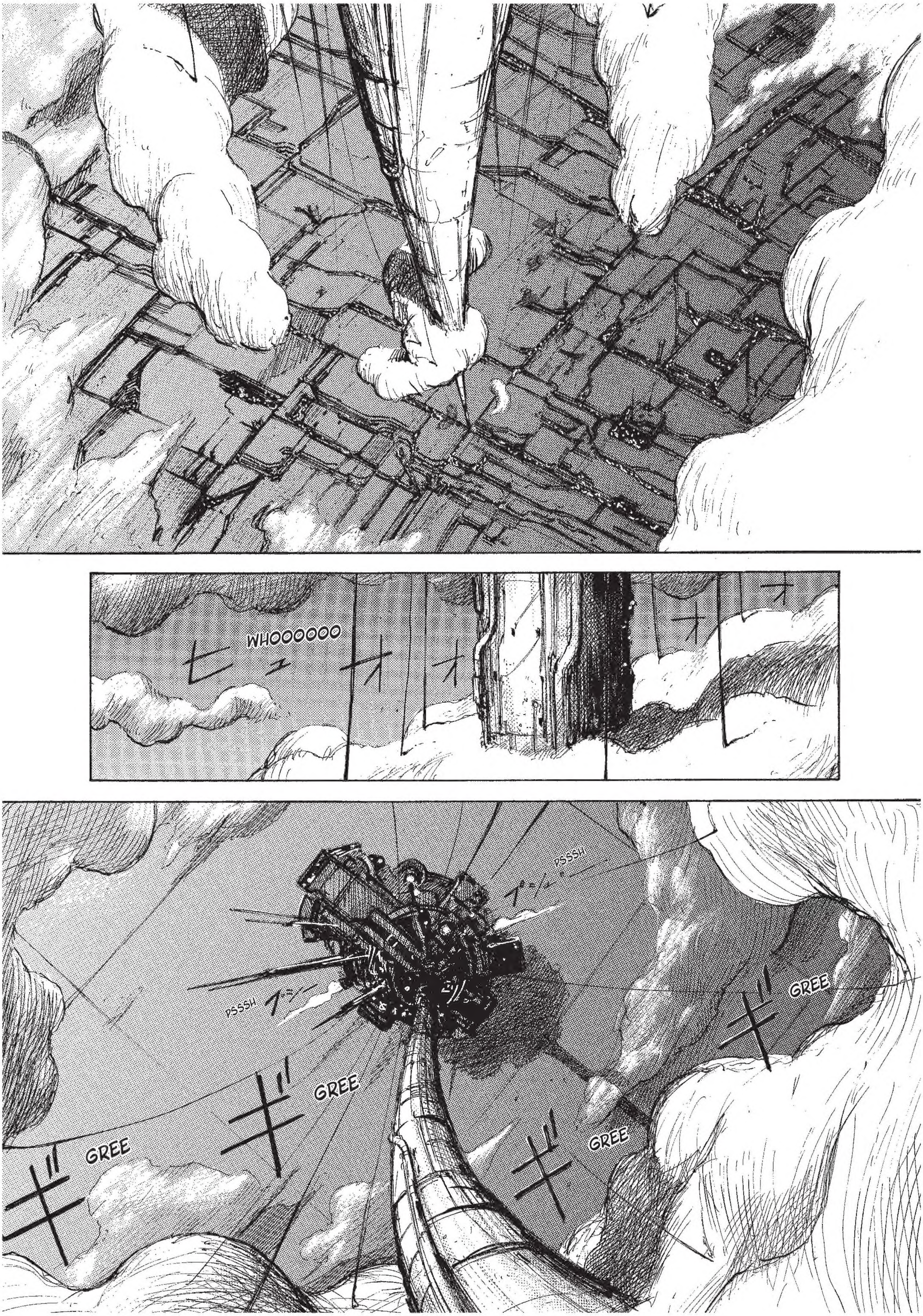
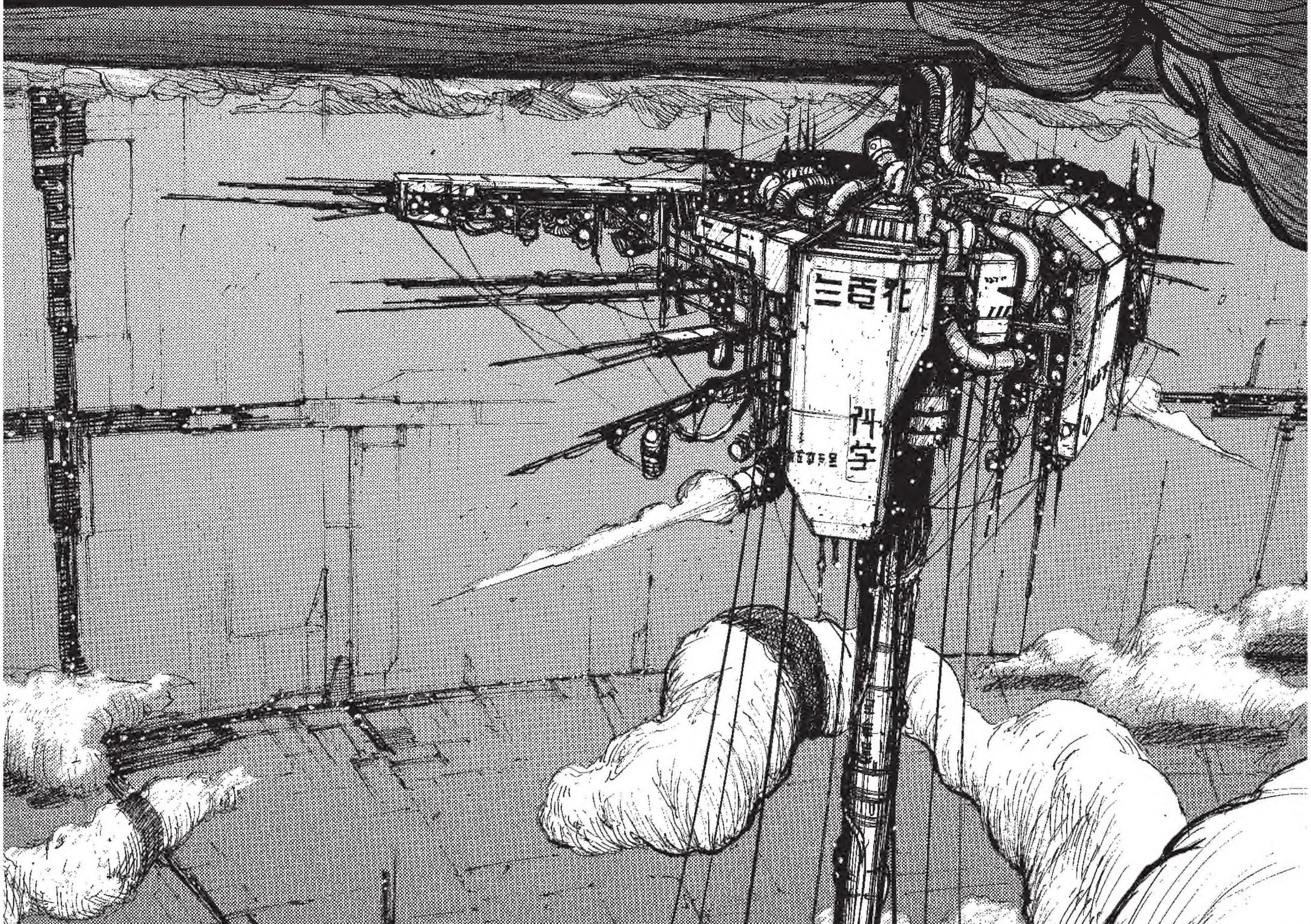
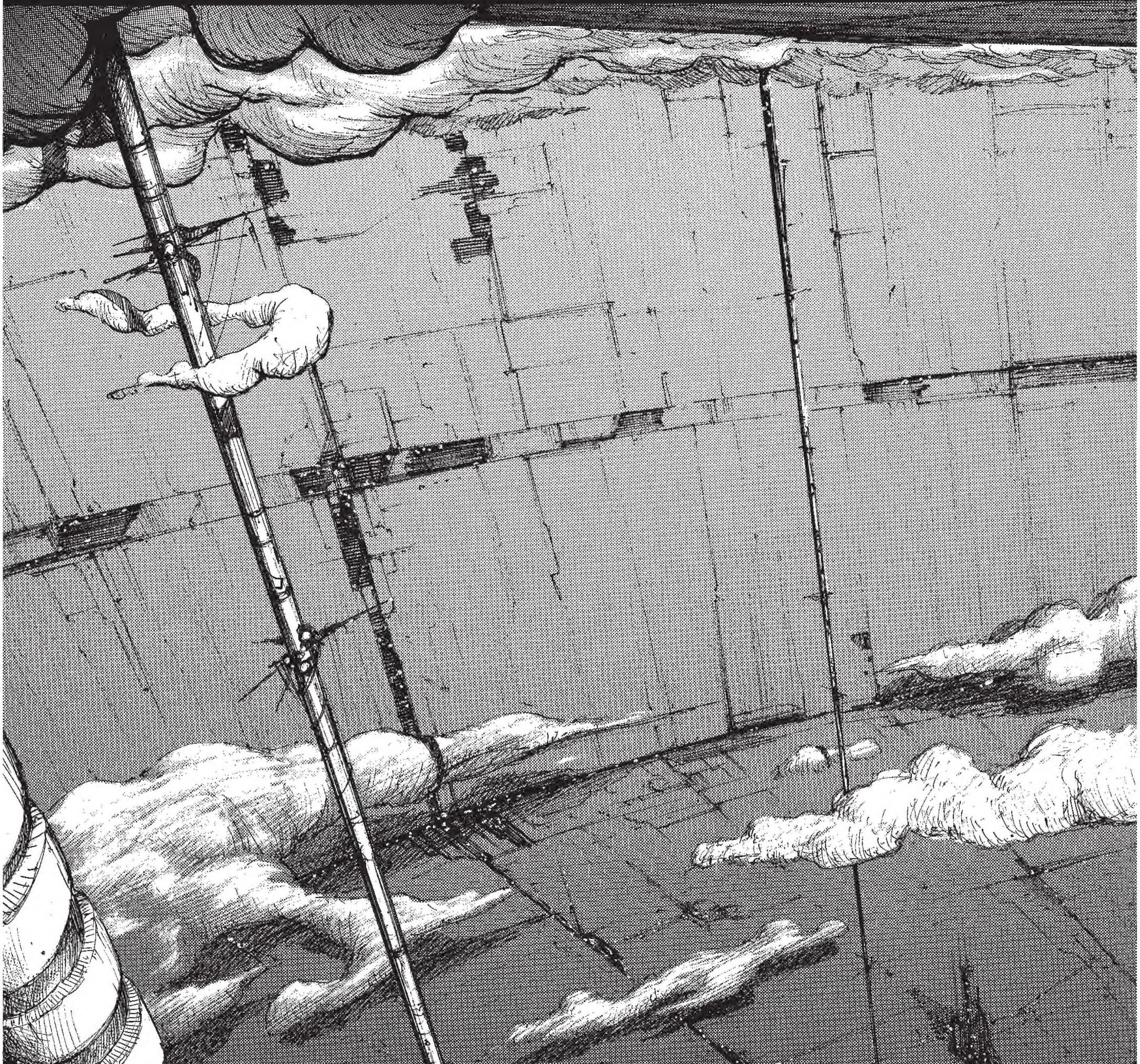
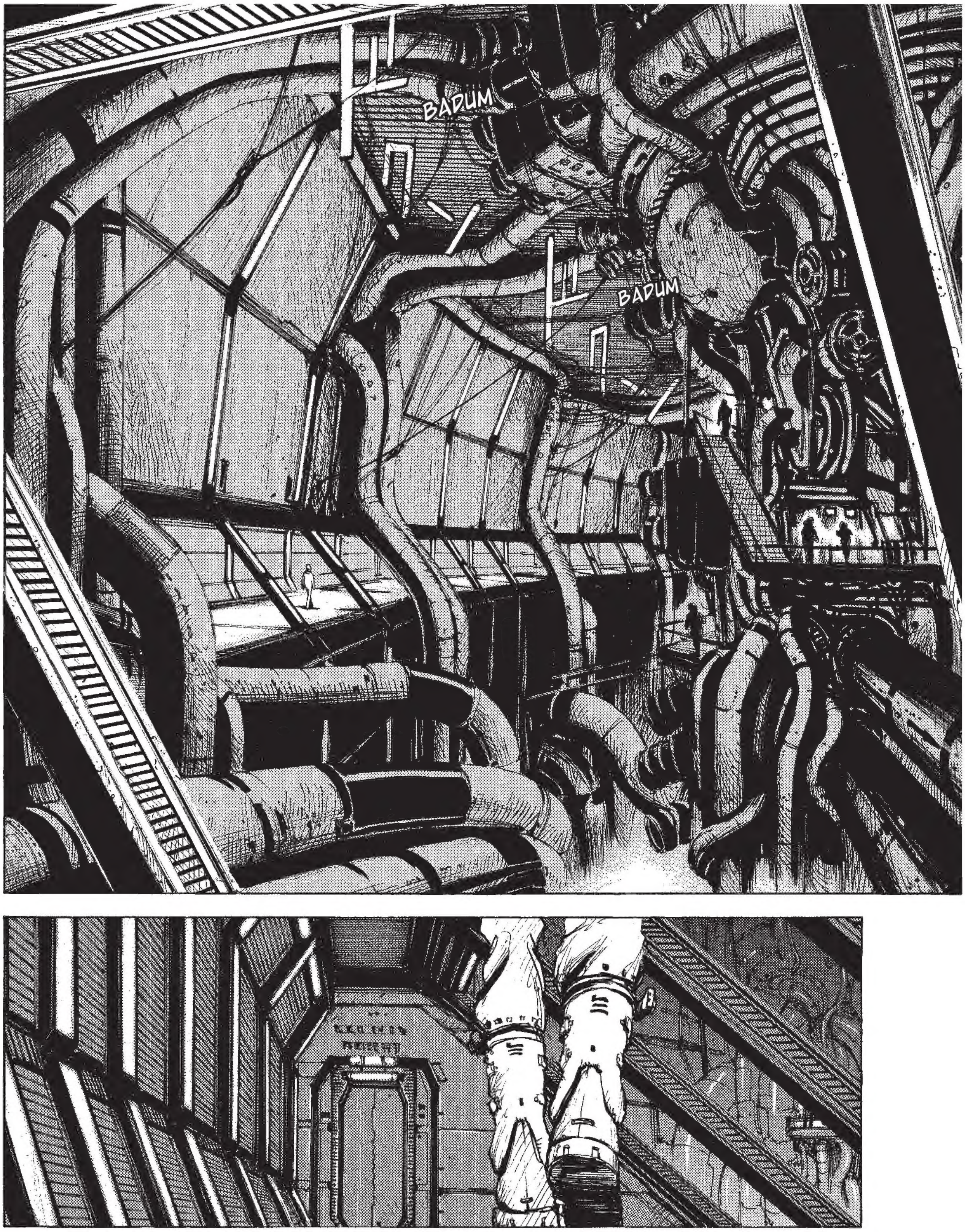

WHOOOOOO
ヒュオオオオ
PSSSH
PSSSH
GREE
GREE
GREE
GREE
ギ
ギ
ギ
ギ

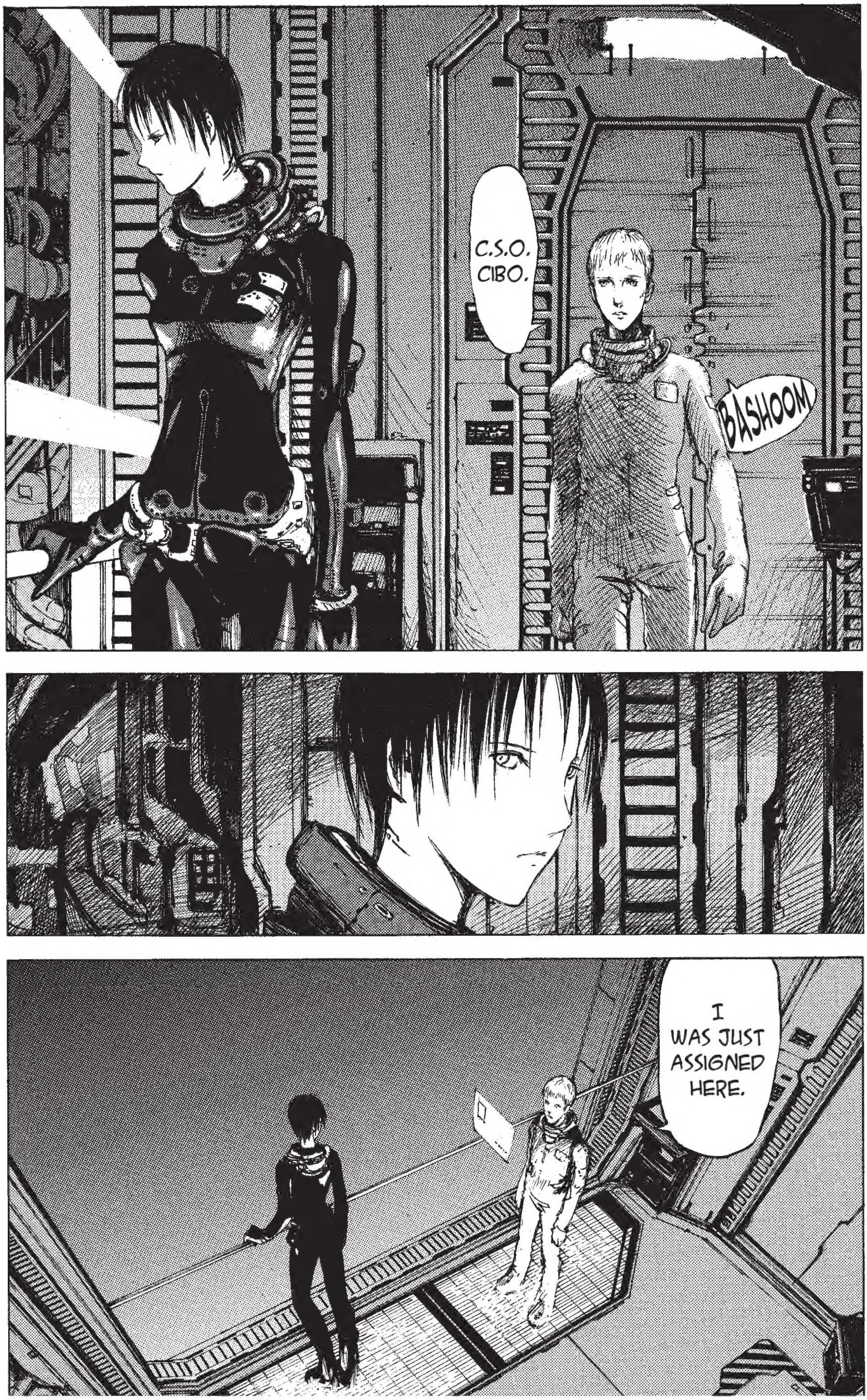


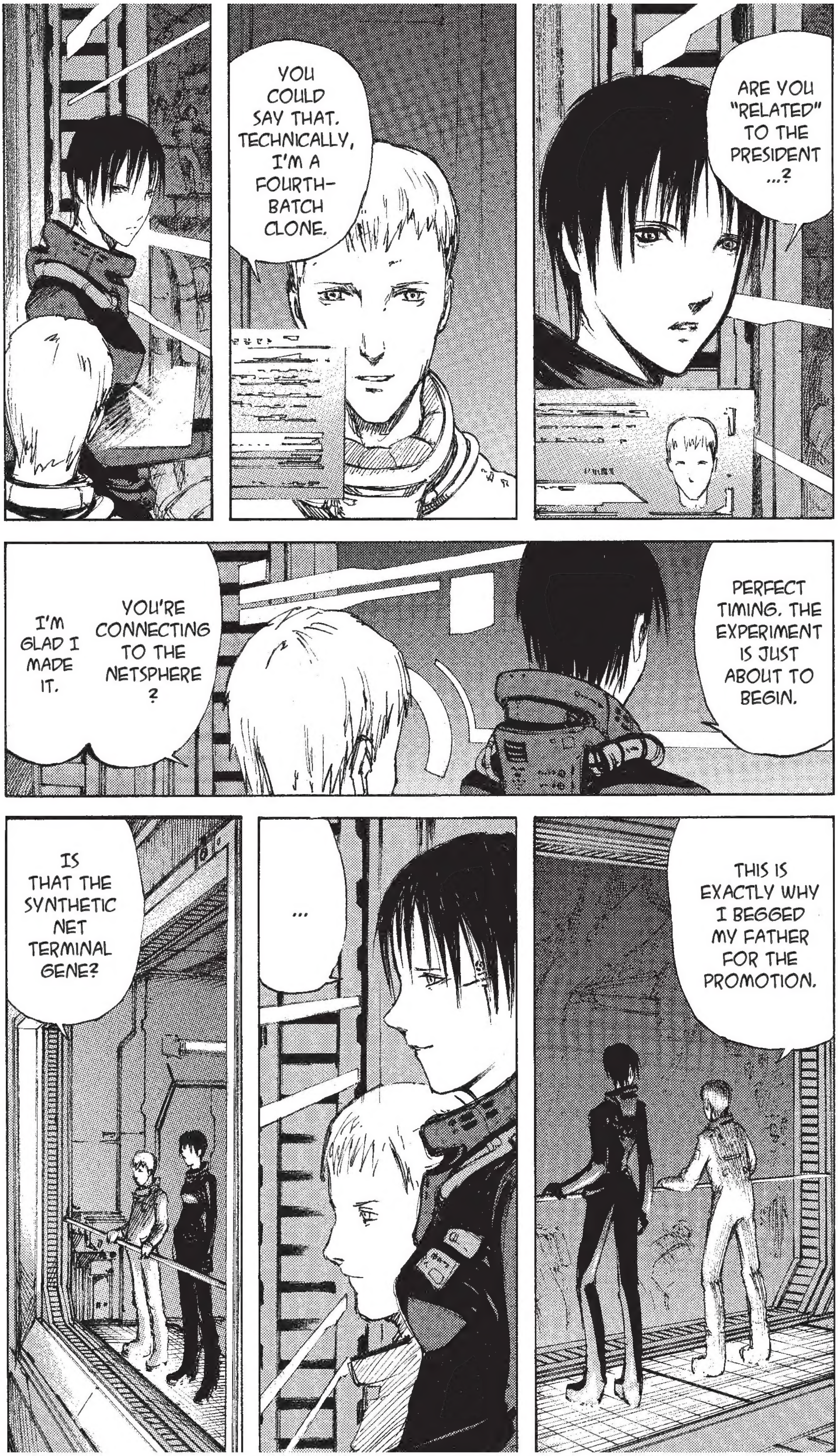
::LOG.10::

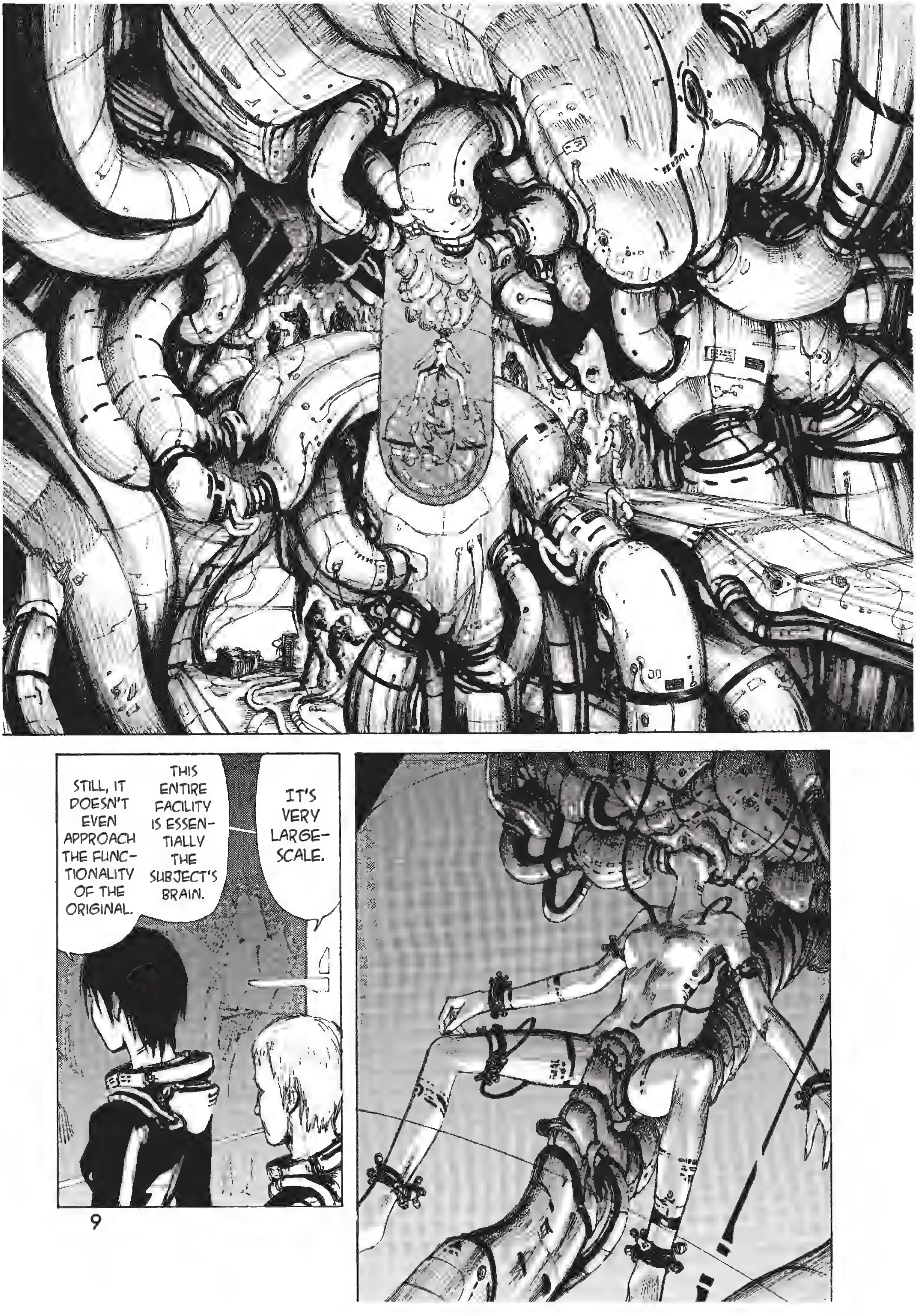
THE NETSPHERE

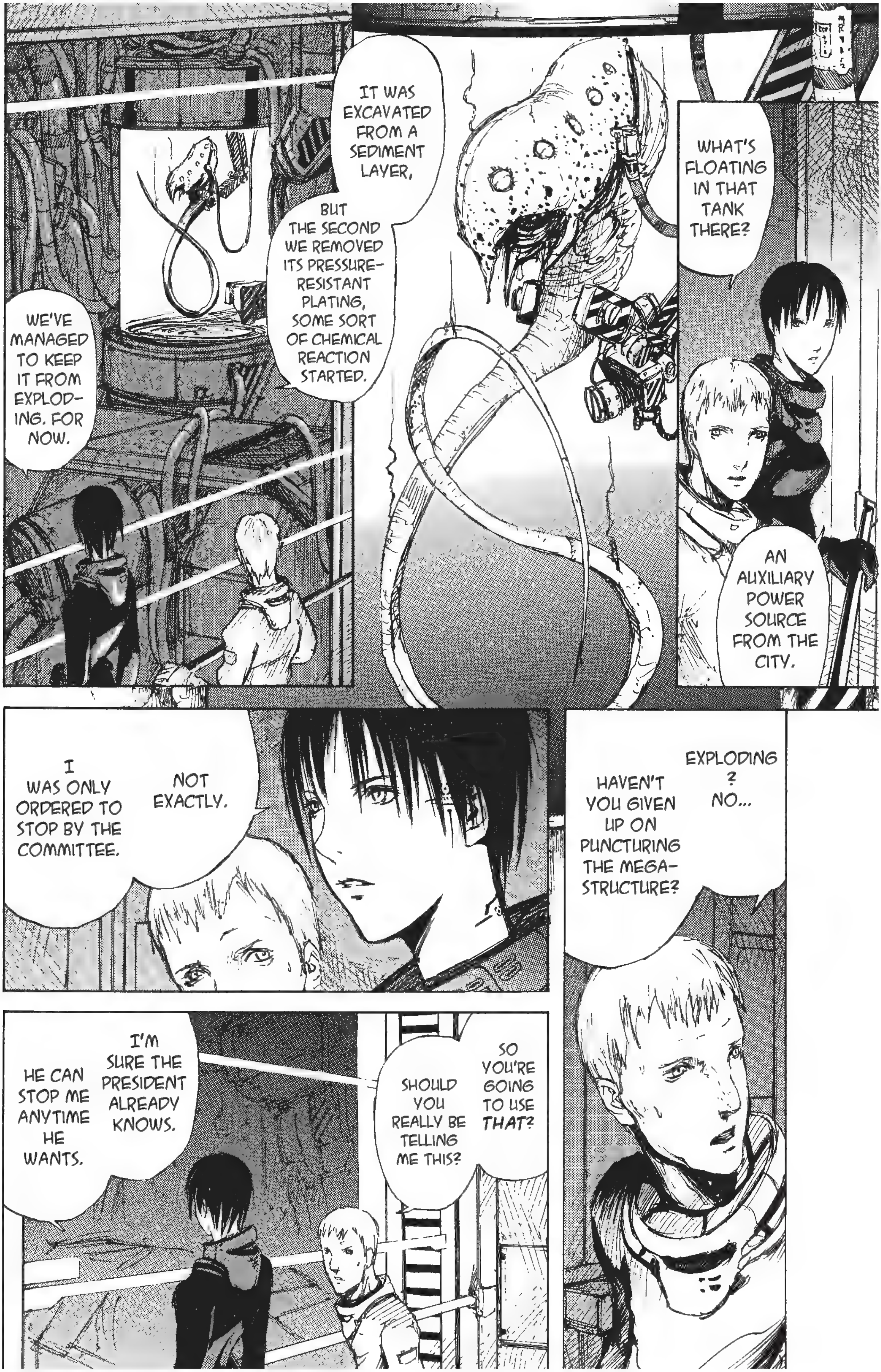


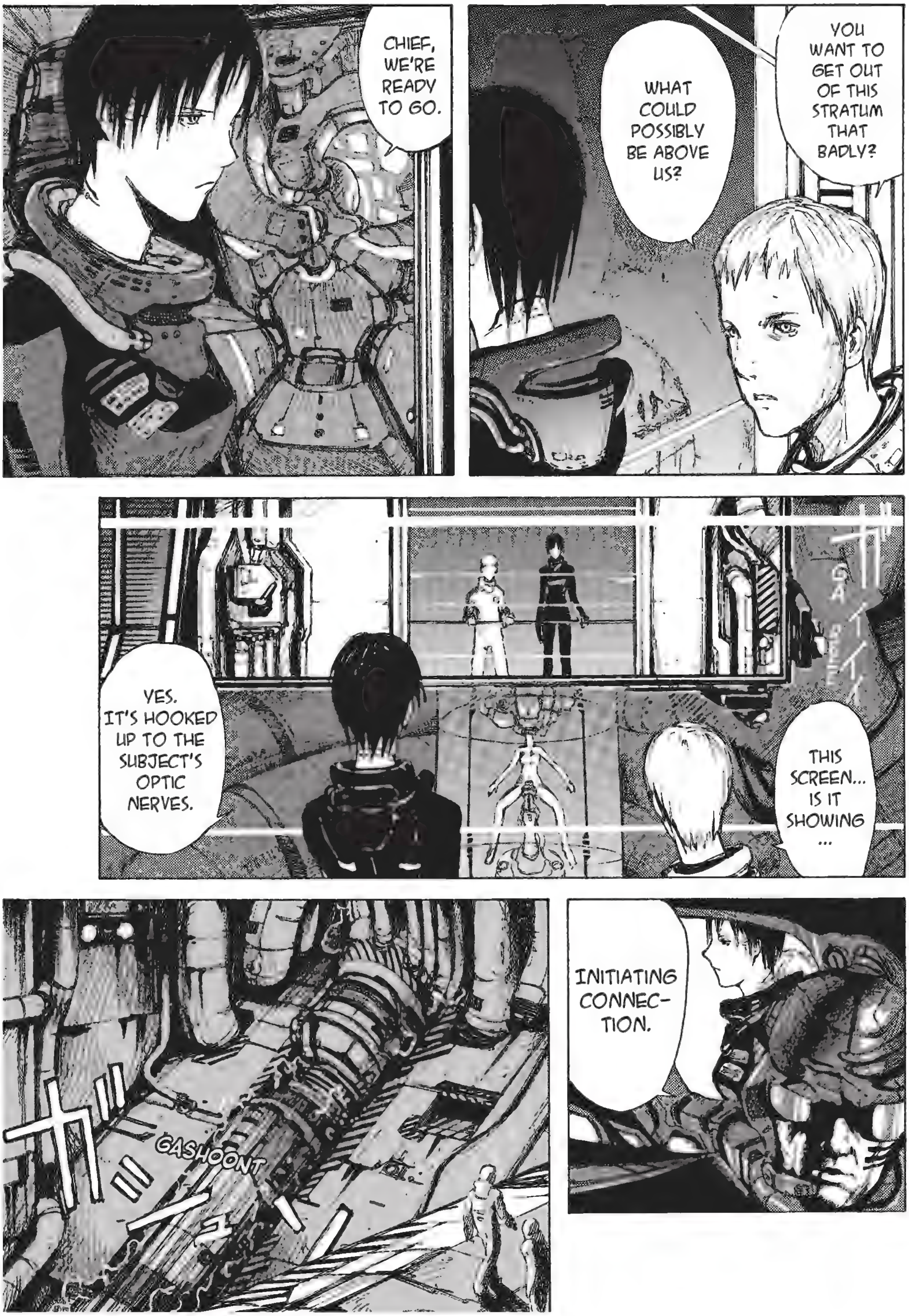

BADUM
BADUM
BIP BIP
BASHK

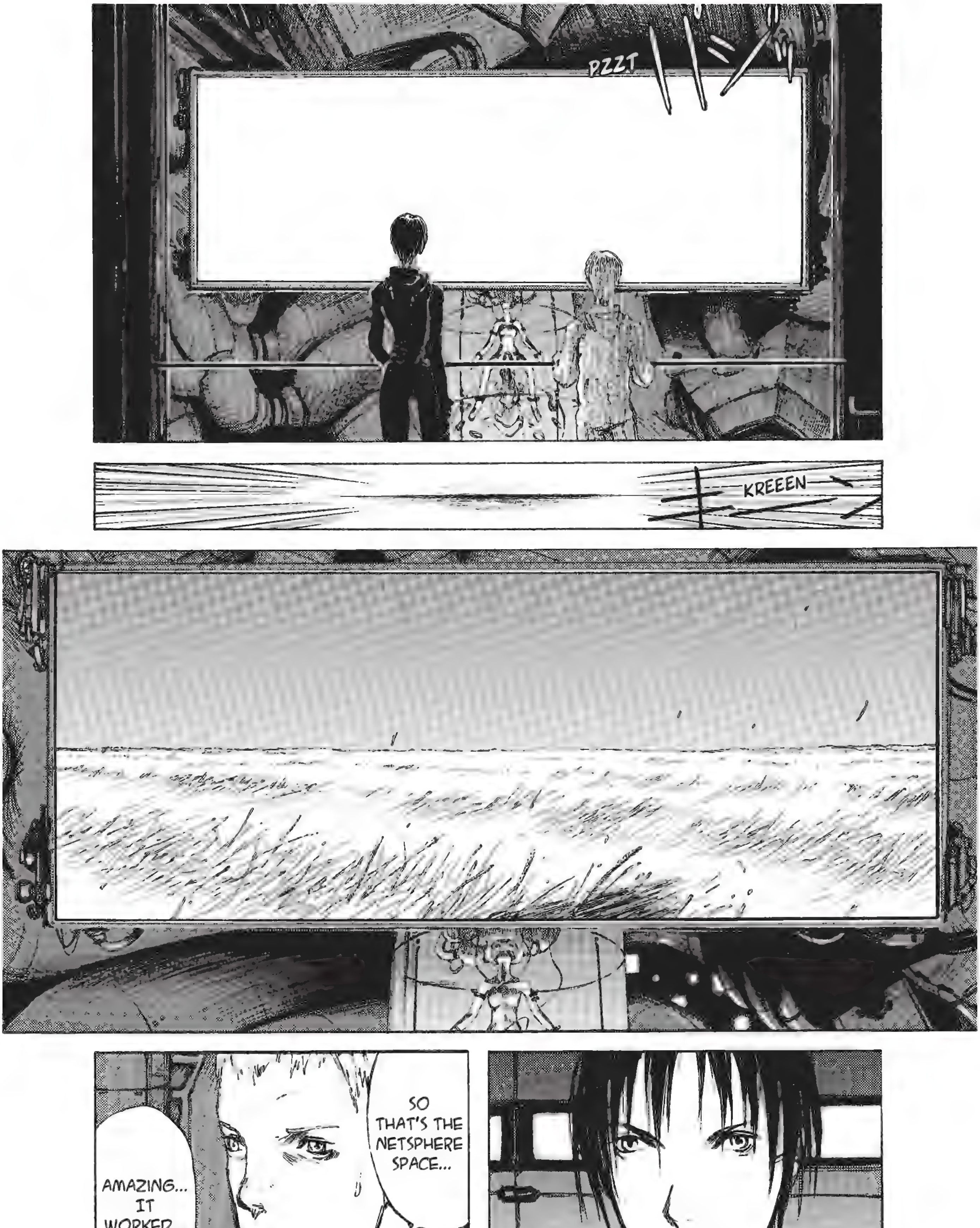

BASHOOM
C.S.O. CIBO.
I WAS JUST ASSIGNED HERE.

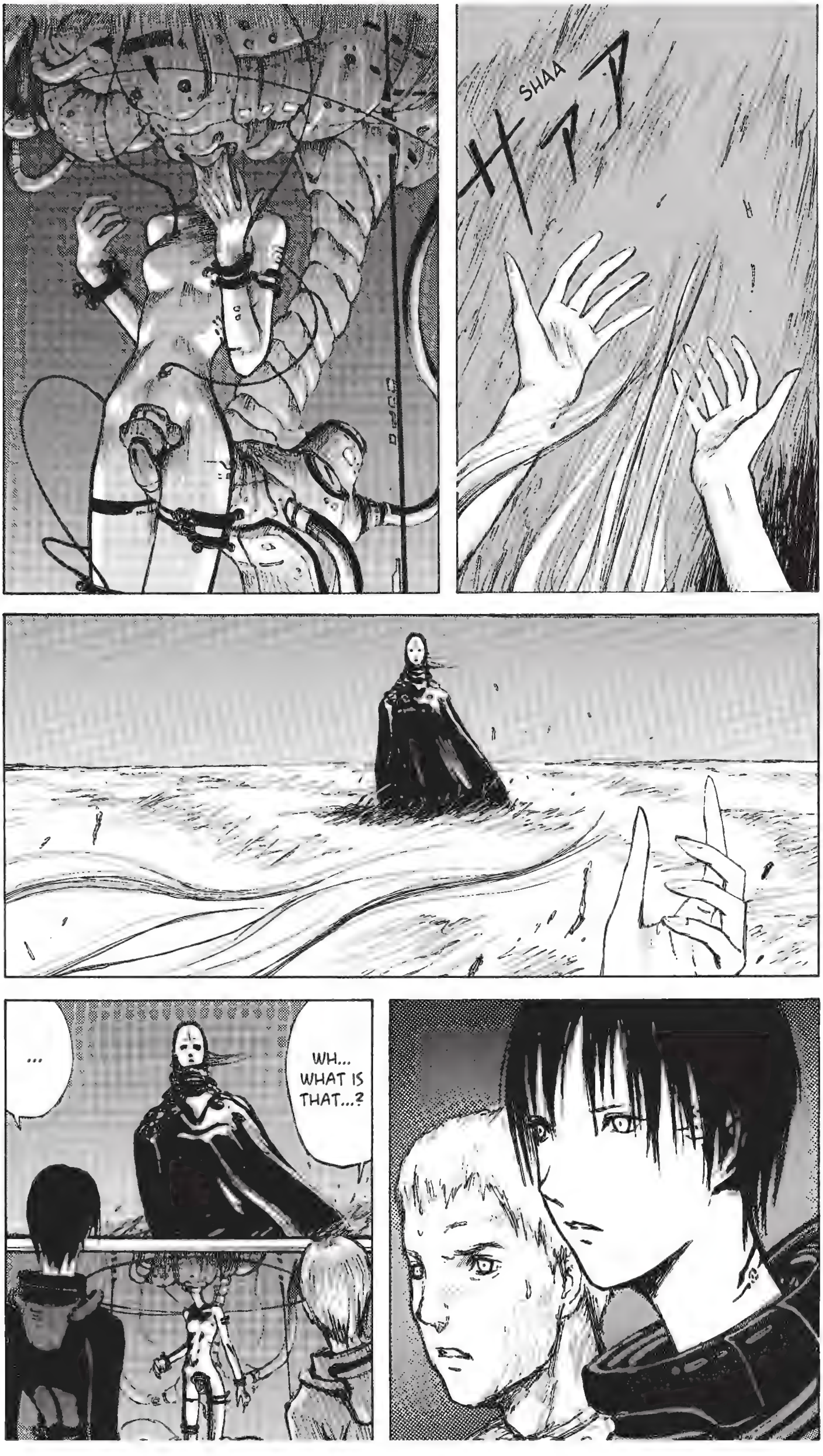

ARE YOU "RELATED" TO THE PRESIDENT ...?
YOU COULD SAY THAT. TECHNICALLY, I'M A FOURTH-BATCH CLONE.
PERFECT TIMING. THE EXPERIMENT IS JUST ABOUT TO BEGIN.
YOU'RE CONNECTING TO THE NETSPHERE?
I'M GLAD I MADE IT.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I BEGGED MY FATHER FOR THE PROMOTION.
...
IS THAT THE SYNTHETIC NET TERMINAL GENE?

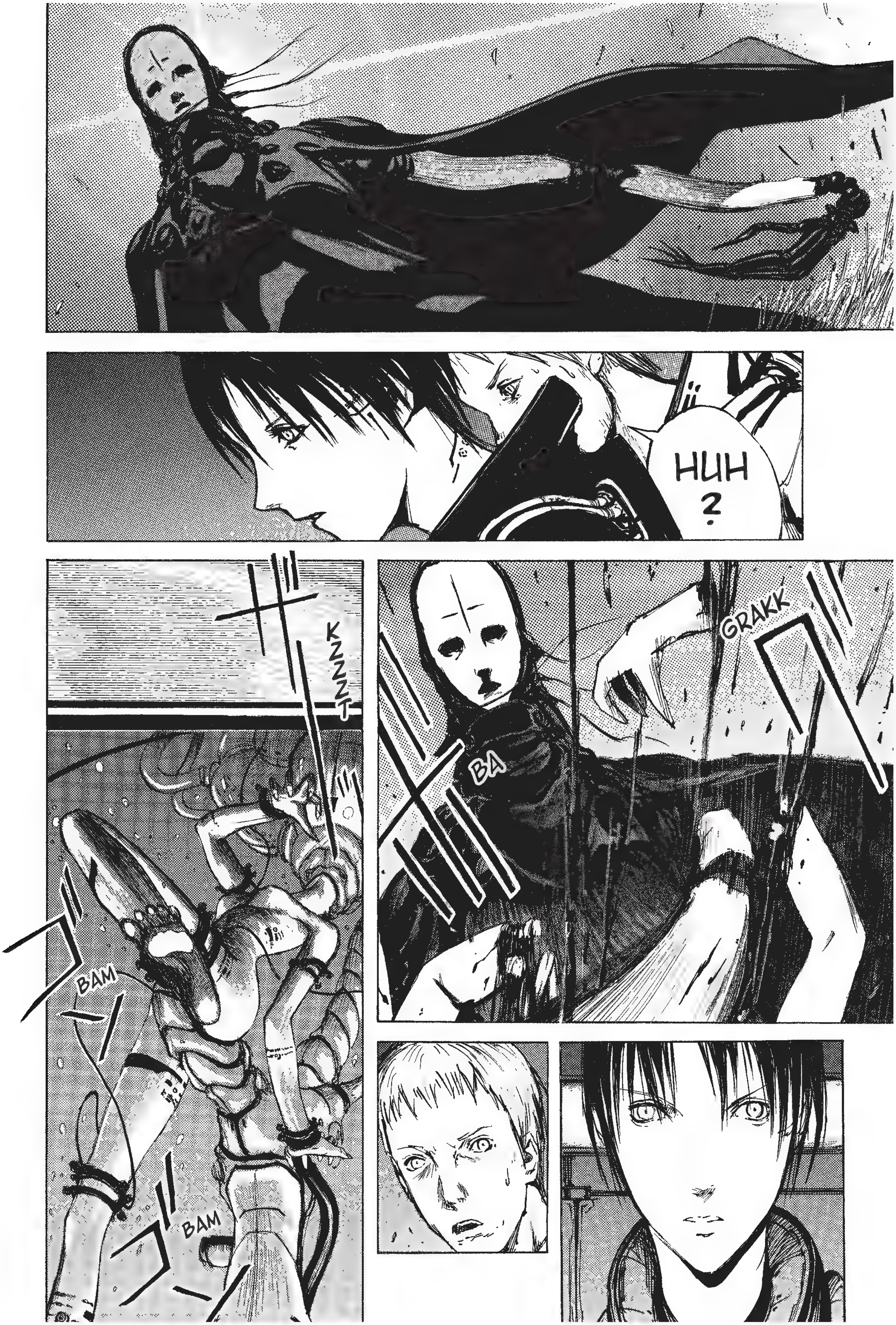

IT'S VERY LARGE-SCALE.
THIS ENTIRE FACILITY IS ESSENTIALLY THE SUBJECT'S BRAIN.
STILL, IT DOESN'T EVEN APPROACH THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE ORIGINAL.

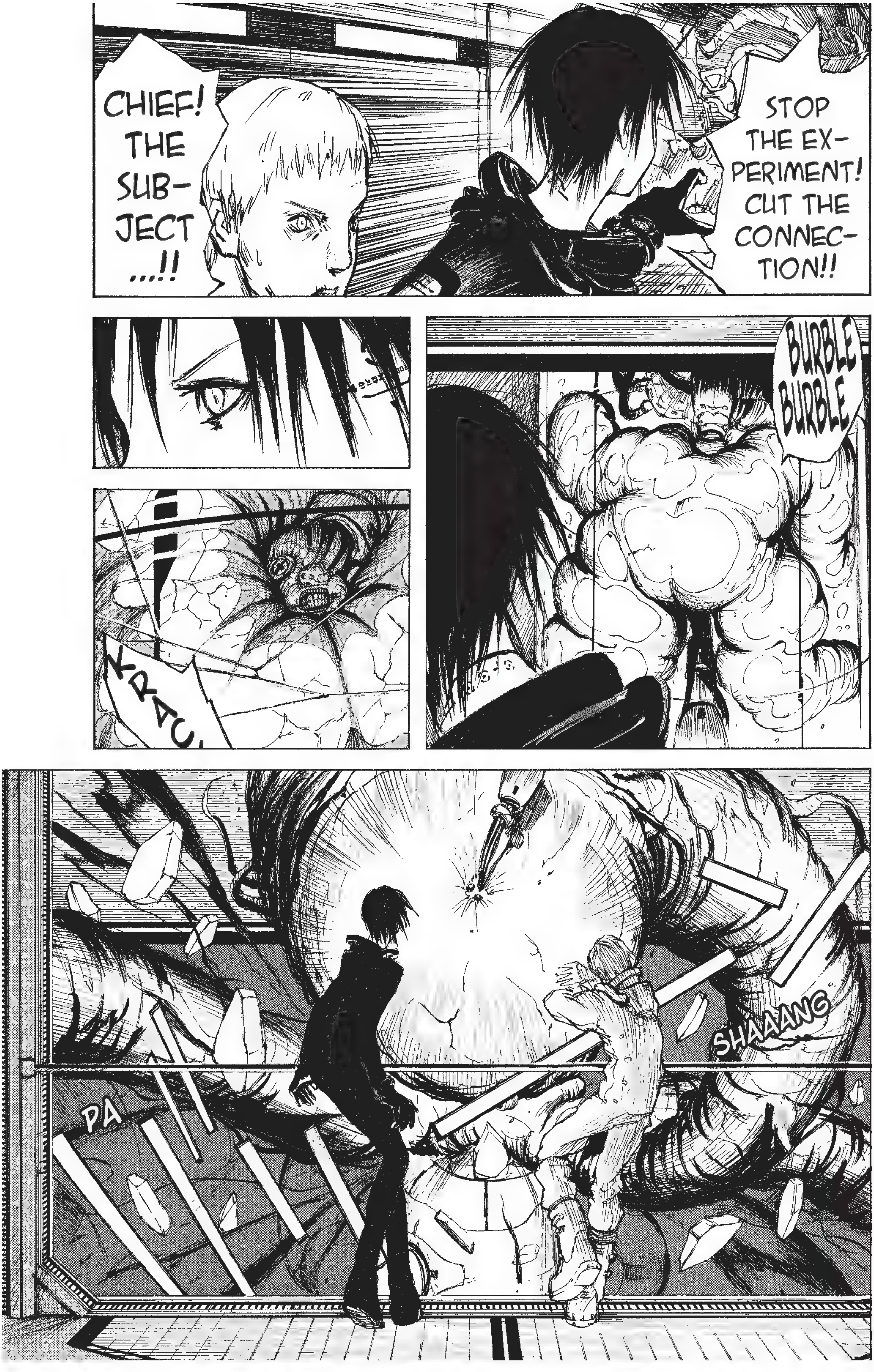

WHAT'S FLOATING IN THAT TANK THERE?
AN AUXILIARY POWER SOURCE FROM THE CITY.
IT WAS EXCAVATED FROM A SEDIMENT LAYER,
BUT THE SECOND WE REMOVED ITS PRESSURE-RESISTANT PLATING, SOME SORT OF CHEMICAL REACTION STARTED.
WE'VE MANAGED TO KEEP IT FROM EXPLODING. FOR NOW.
EXPLODING? NO...
HAVEN'T YOU GIVEN UP ON PUNCTURING THE MEGA-STRUCTURE?
NOT EXACTLY.
I WAS ONLY ORDERED TO STOP BY THE COMMITTEE.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO USE *THAT*?
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE TELLING ME THIS?
I'M SURE THE PRESIDENT ALREADY KNOWS.
HE CAN STOP ME ANYTIME HE WANTS.

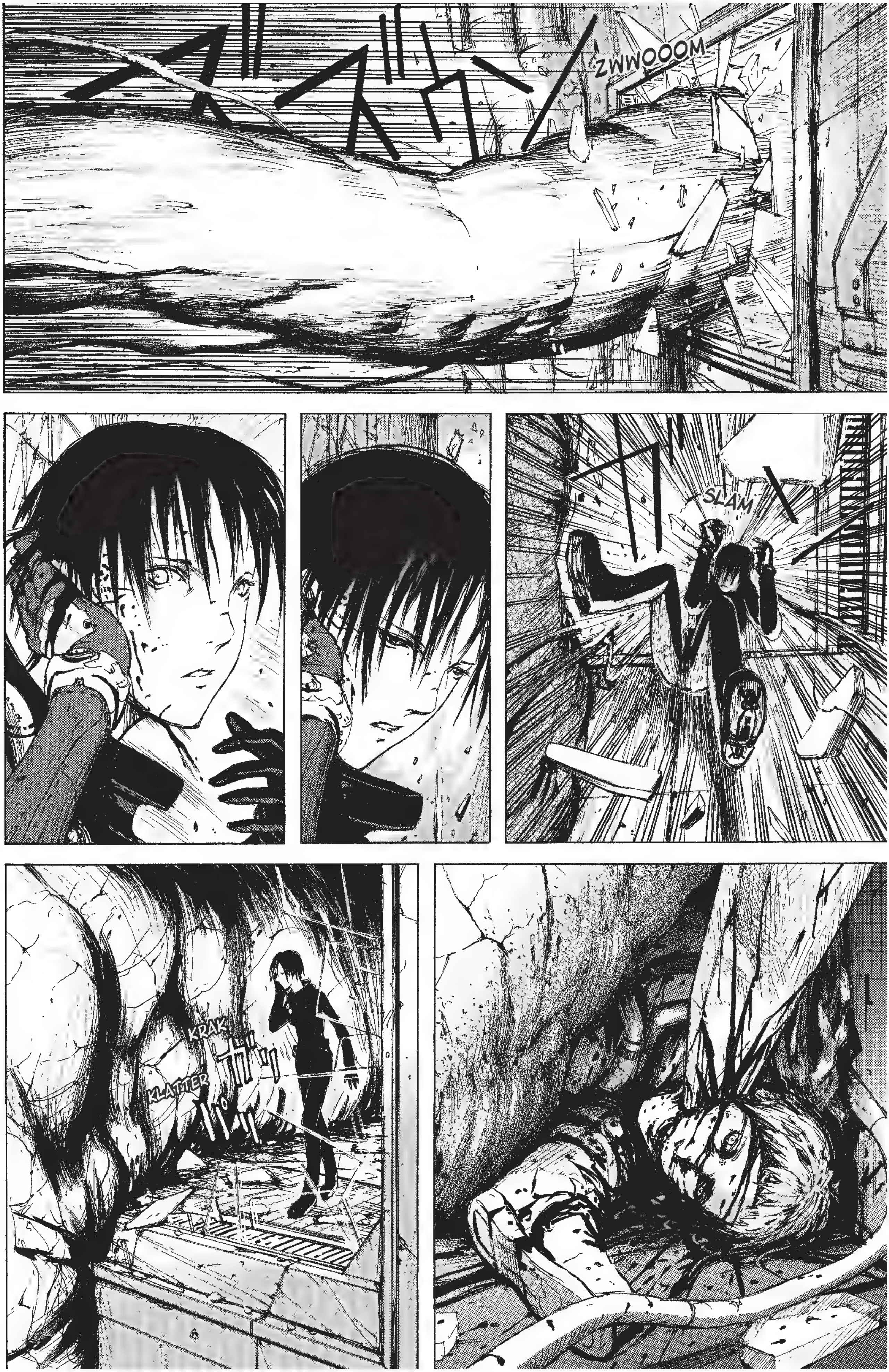

YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS STRATUM THAT BADLY?
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE ABOVE US?
CHIEF, WE'RE READY TO GO.
THIS SCREEN... IS IT SHOWING ...
YES. IT'S HOOKED UP TO THE SUBJECT'S OPTIC NERVES.
INITIATING CONNECTION.
GASHOONT

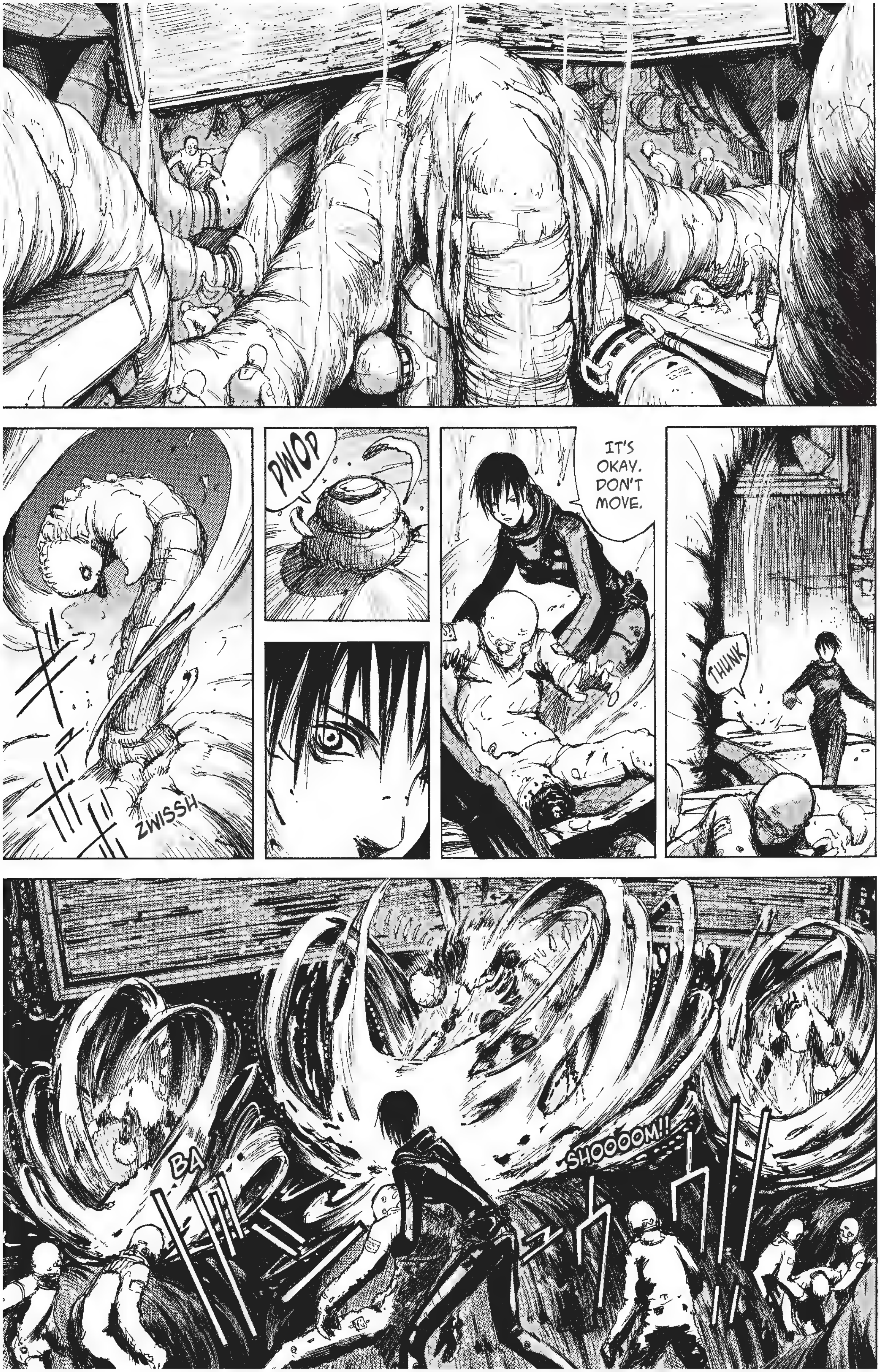

PZZT
KREEEN
SO THAT'S THE NETSPHERE SPACE...
AMAZING... IT WORKED...

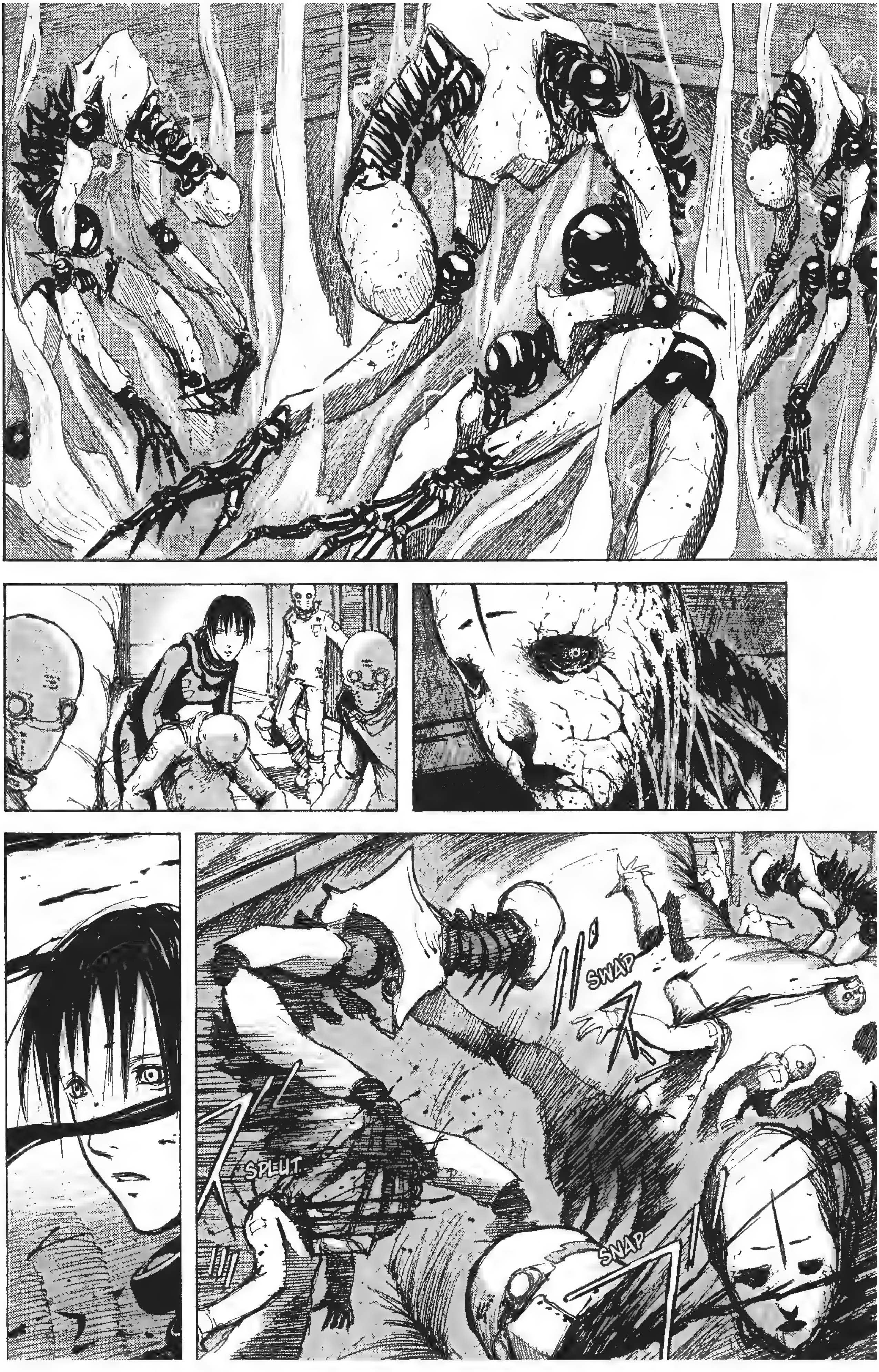

SHAA
サァァ
WH... WHAT IS THAT...?
...

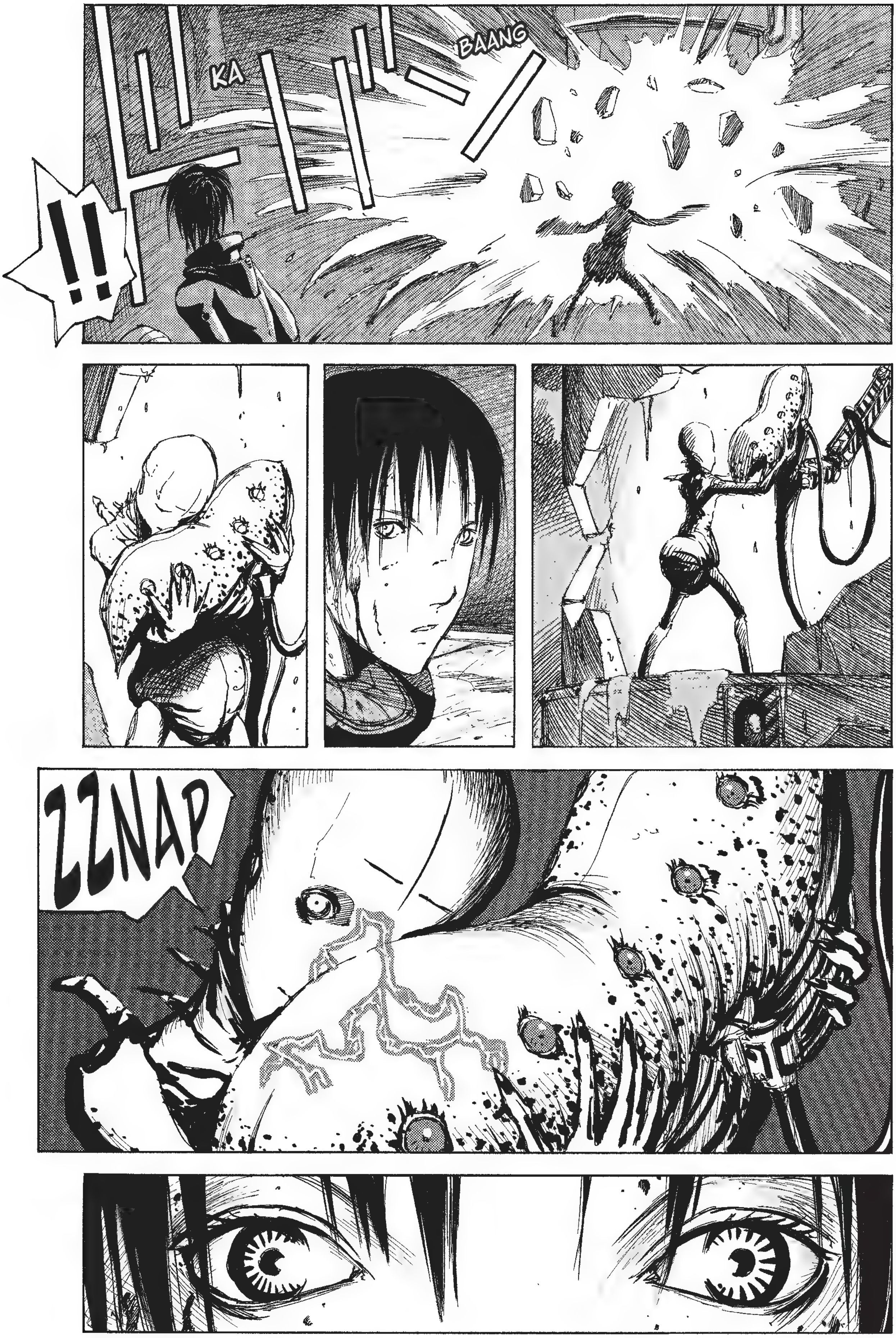

HUH?
GRAKK
BA
KZZZT
BAM
BAM

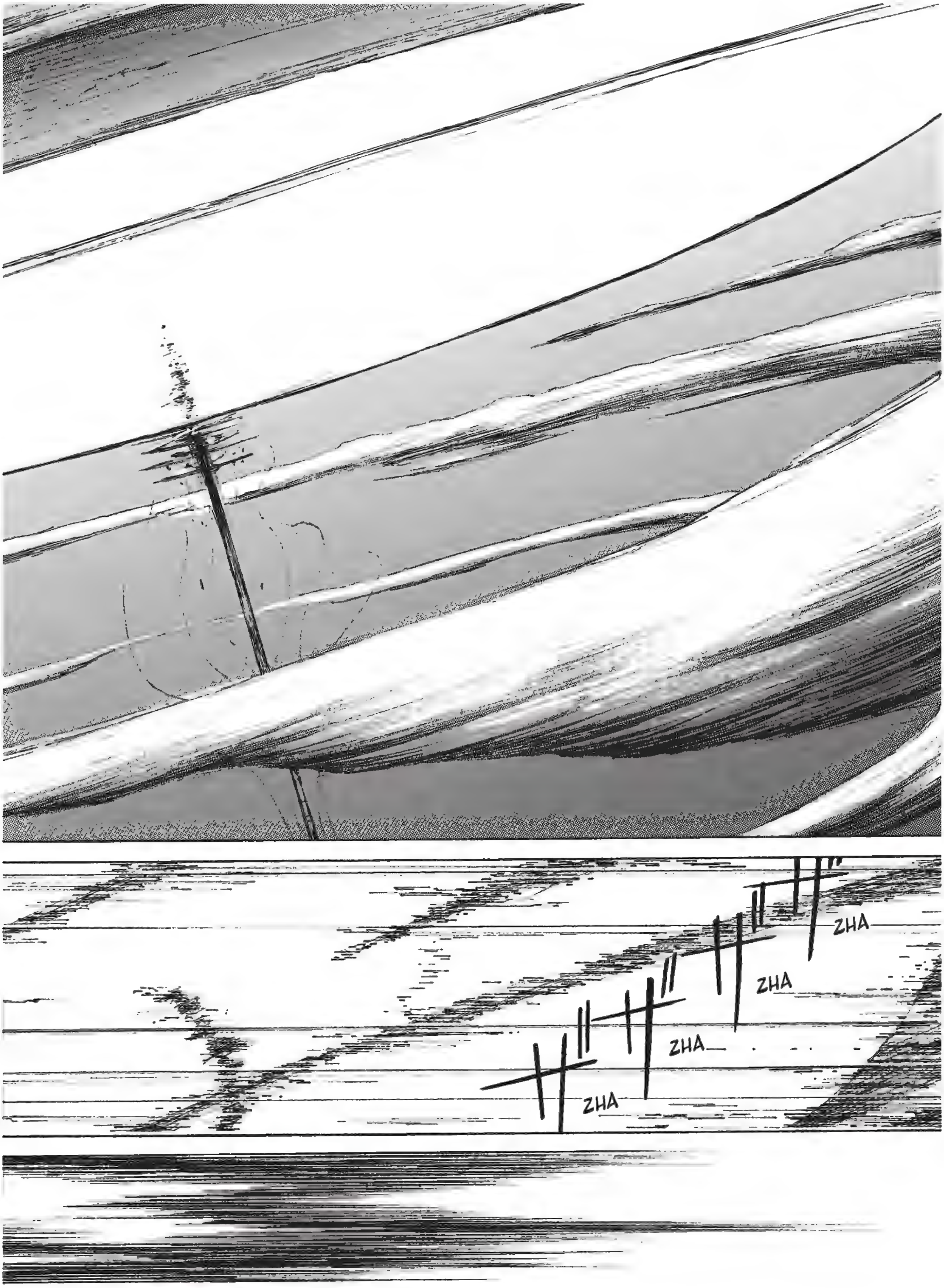

STOP THE EXPERIMENT! CUT THE CONNECTION!!
CHIEF! THE SUBJECT ...!!
BURBLE BURBLE
KRAC
SHAAANG
PA

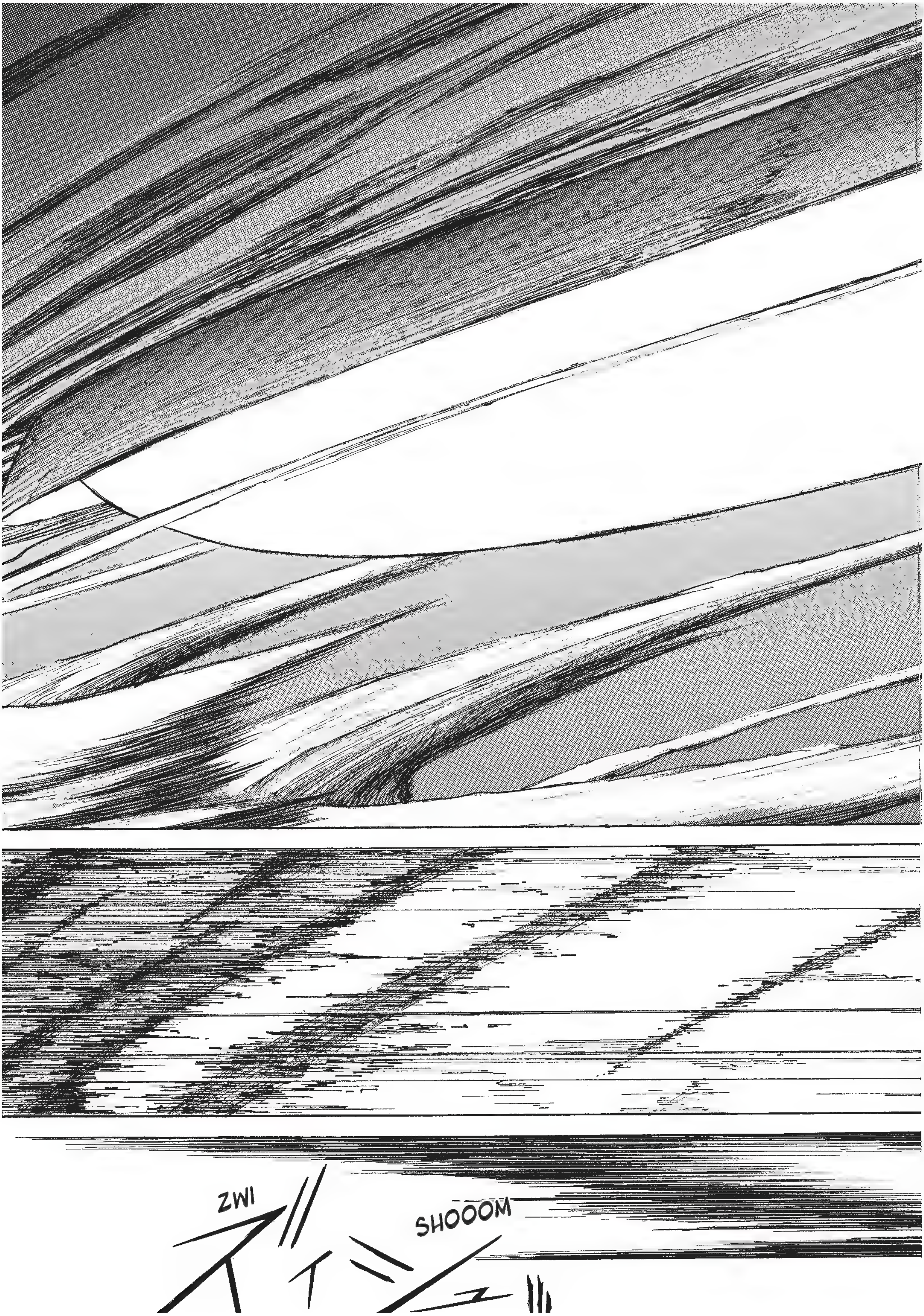

ZWWOOOM
SLAM
KRAK
KLATTER

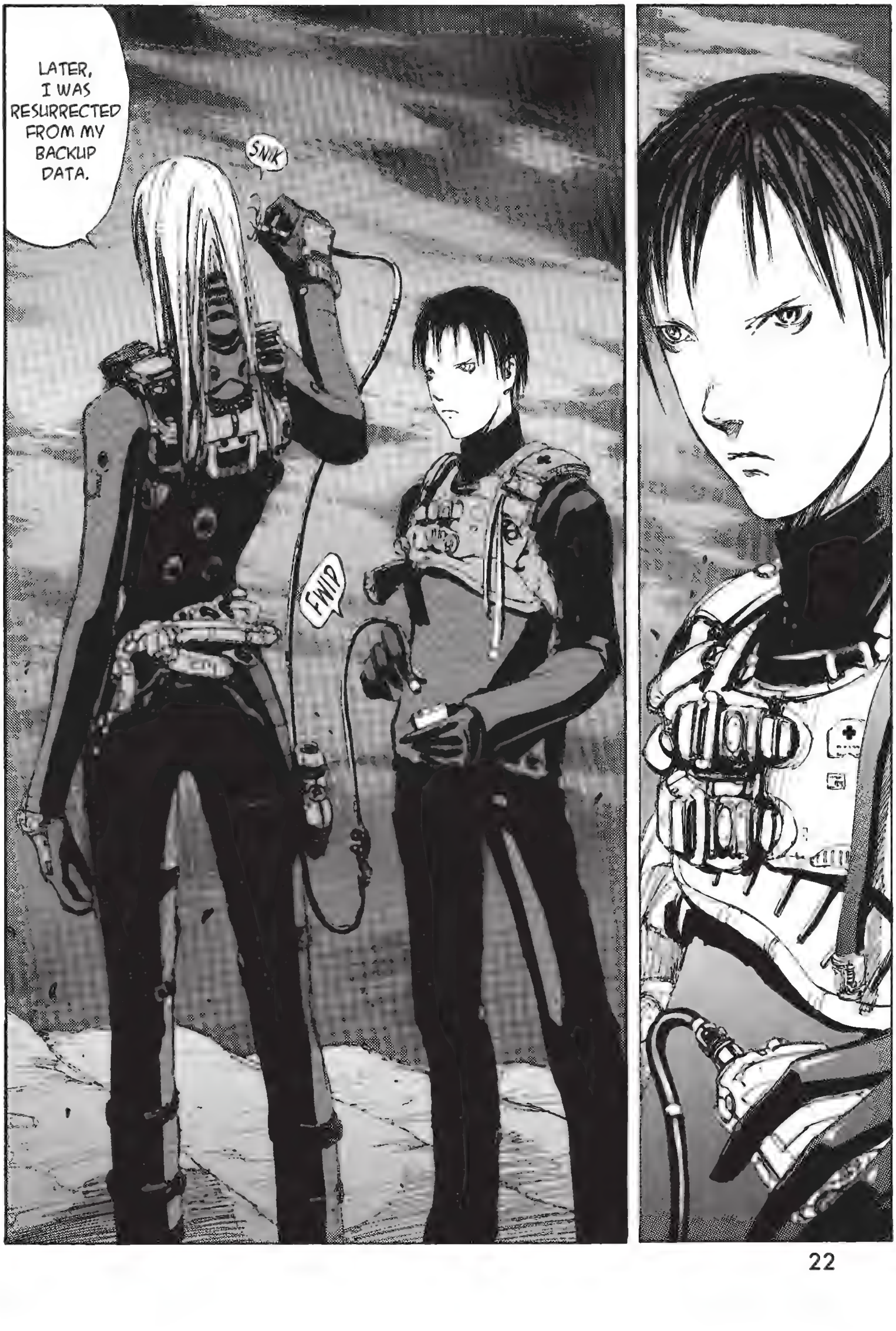

THUNK
IT'S OKAY. DON'T MOVE.
PWOP
ZWISSH
SHOOOOM!!
BA

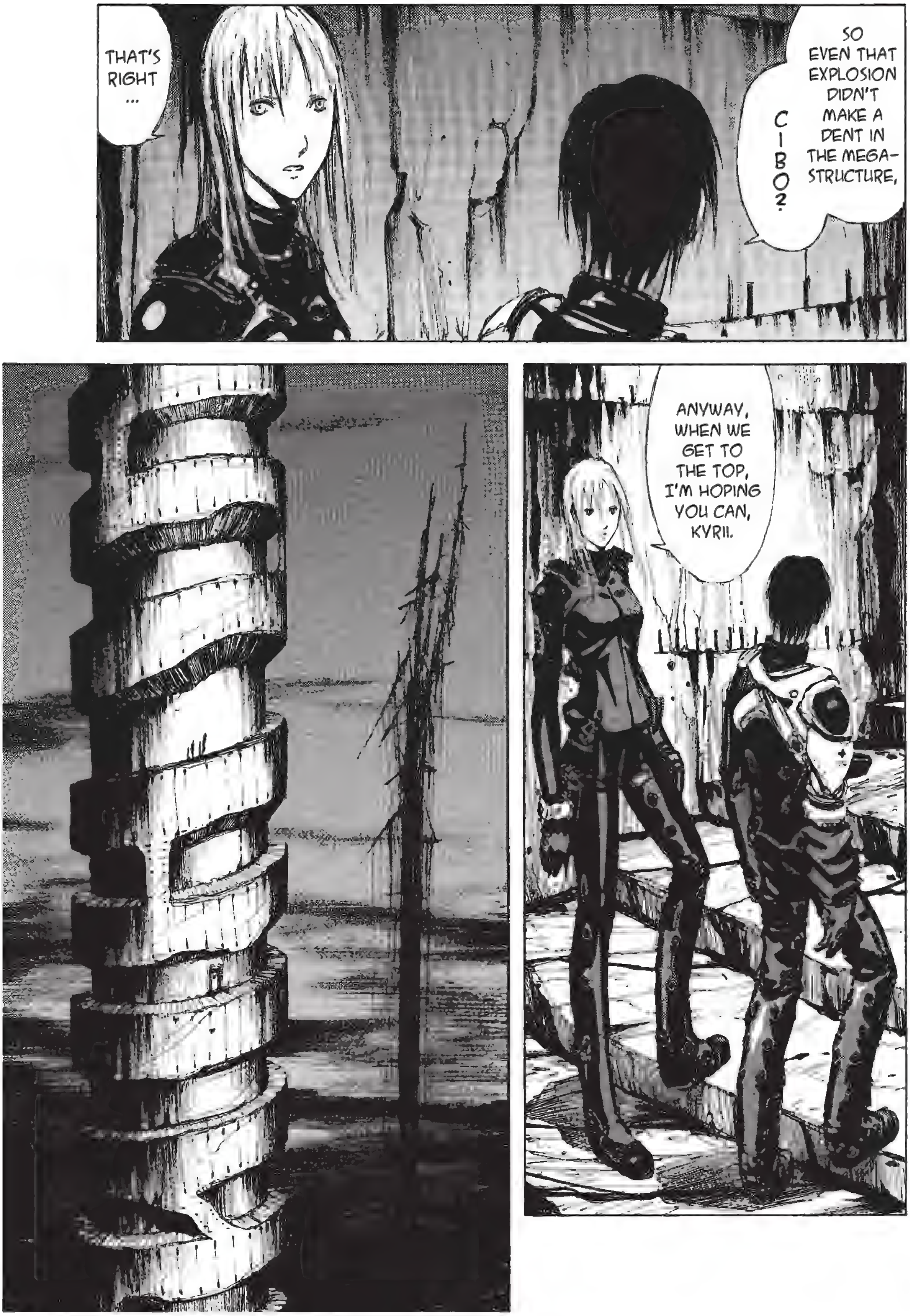

SNAP
SNAP
SPLUT

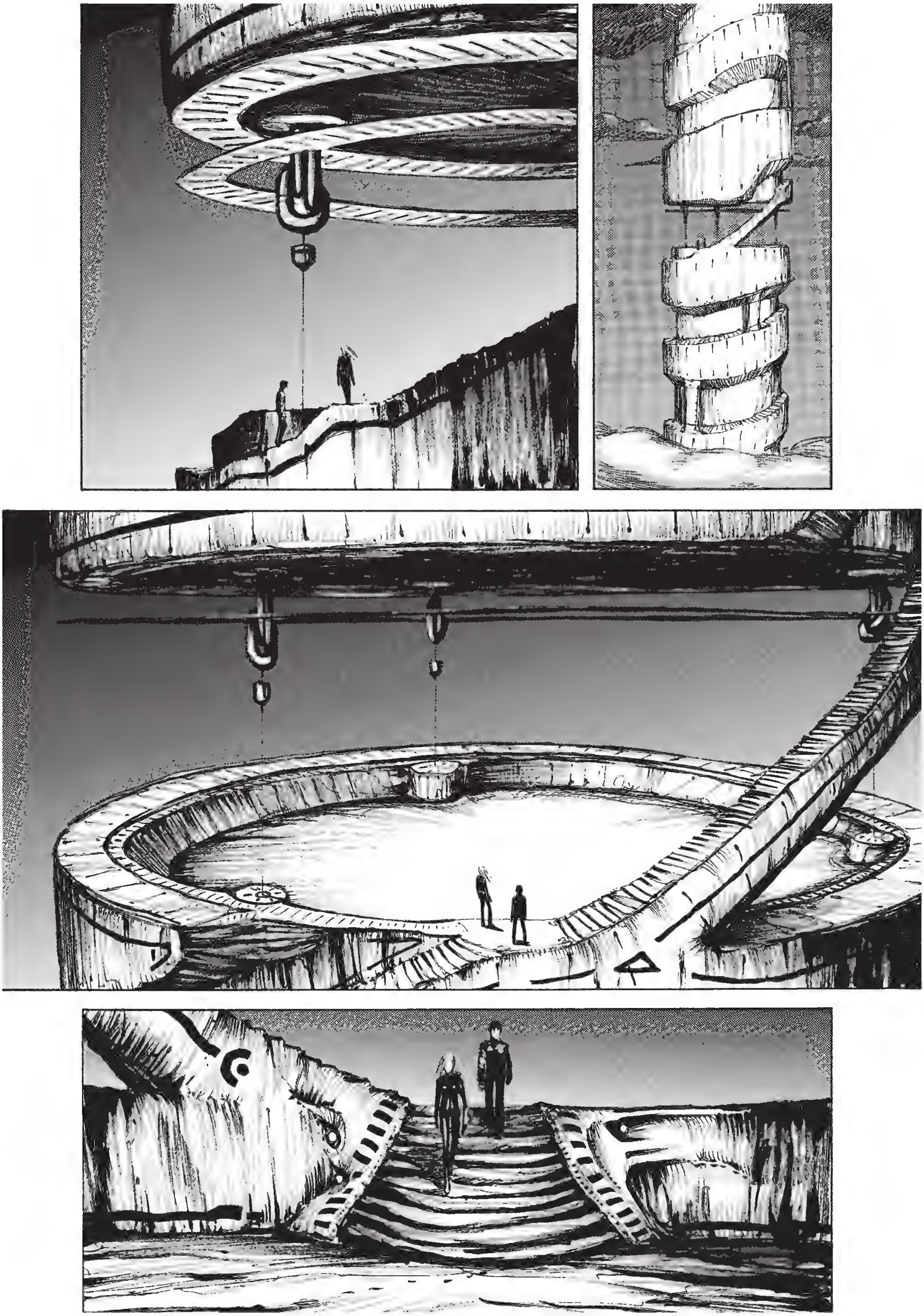

BAANG
KA
!!
ZZNAP

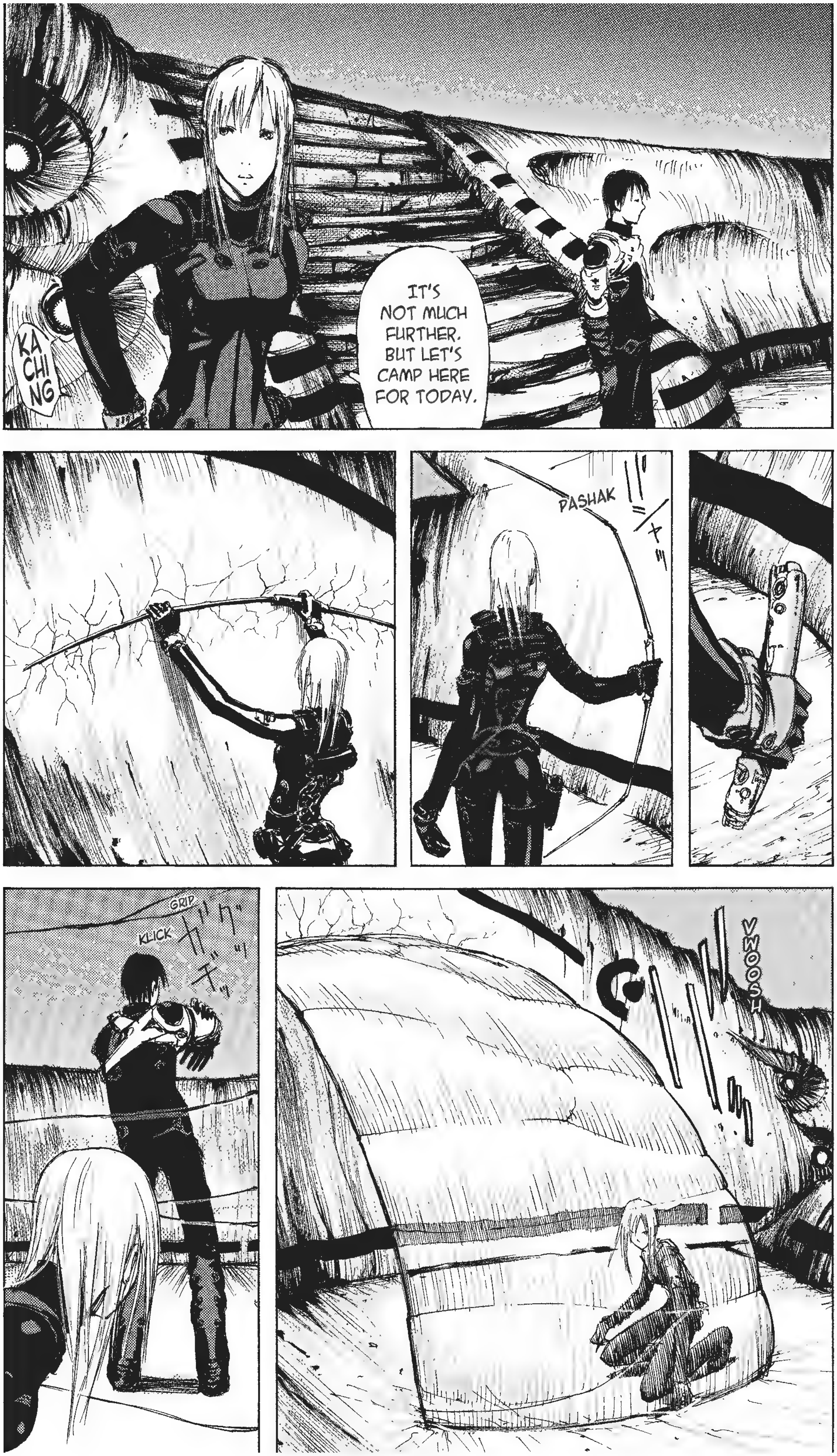

ZHA
ZHA
ZHA
ZHA

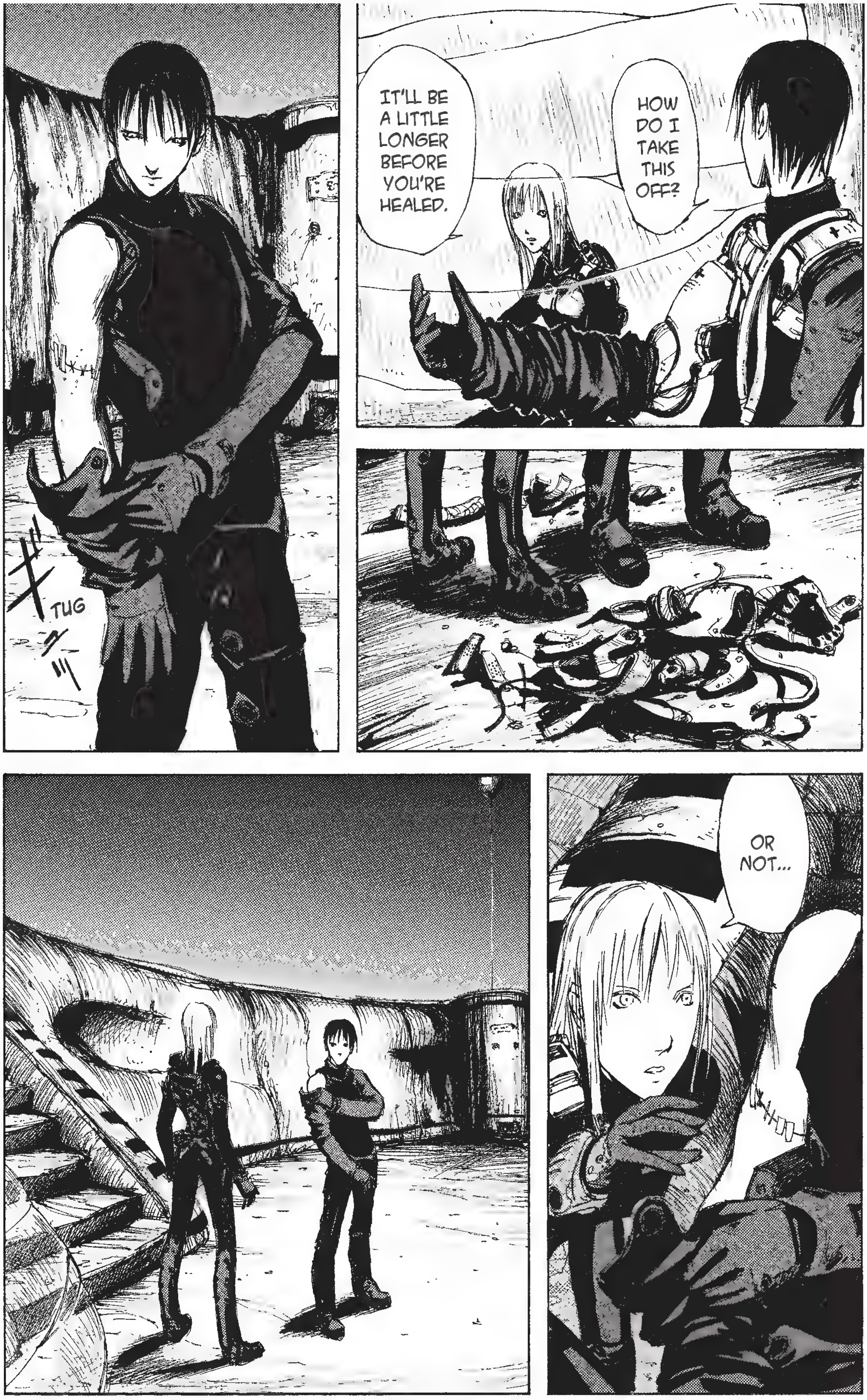

ZWI
SHOOOM
ズイシュ

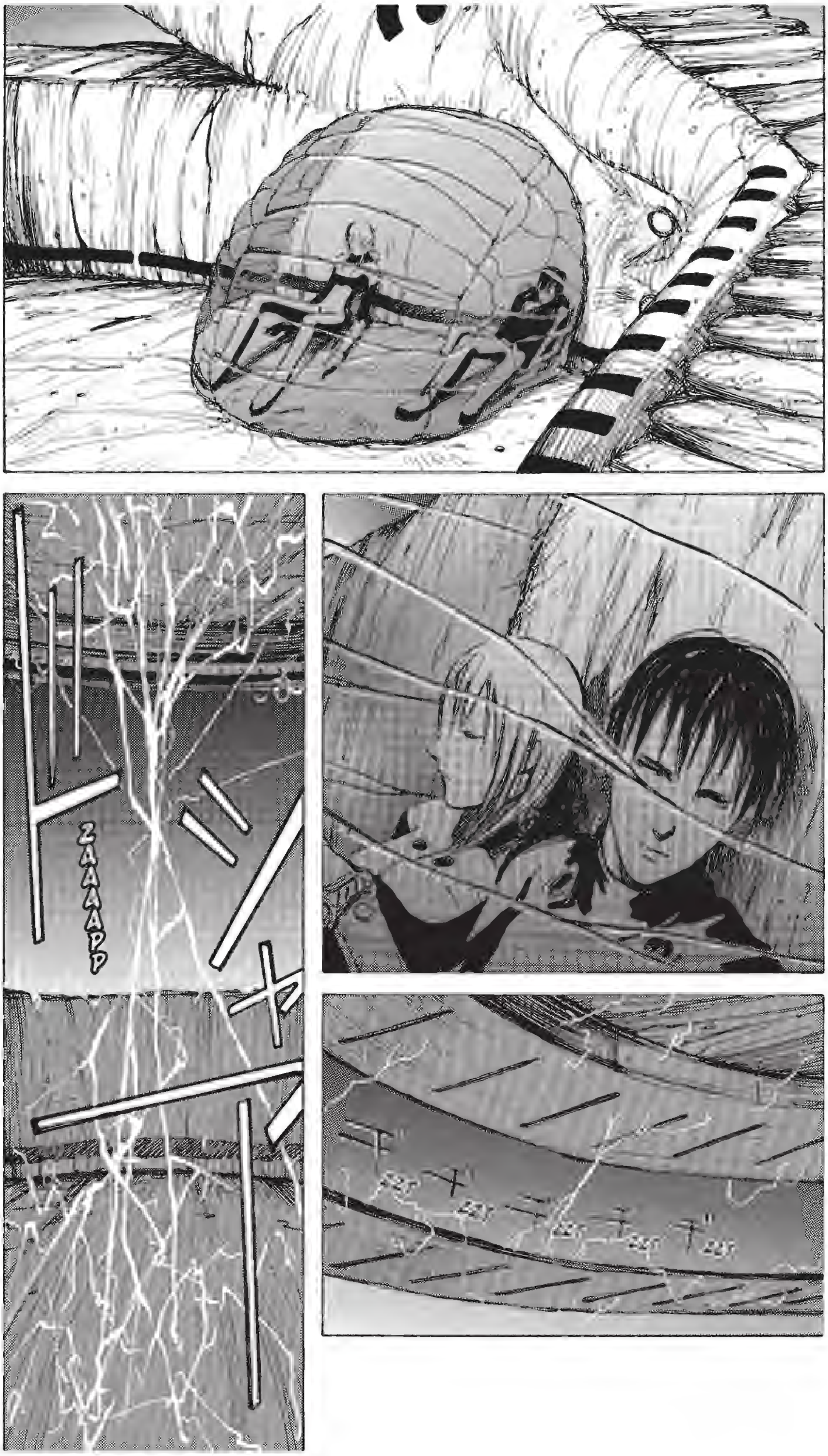

LATER, I WAS RESURRECTED FROM MY BACKUP DATA.
SNIK
FWIP

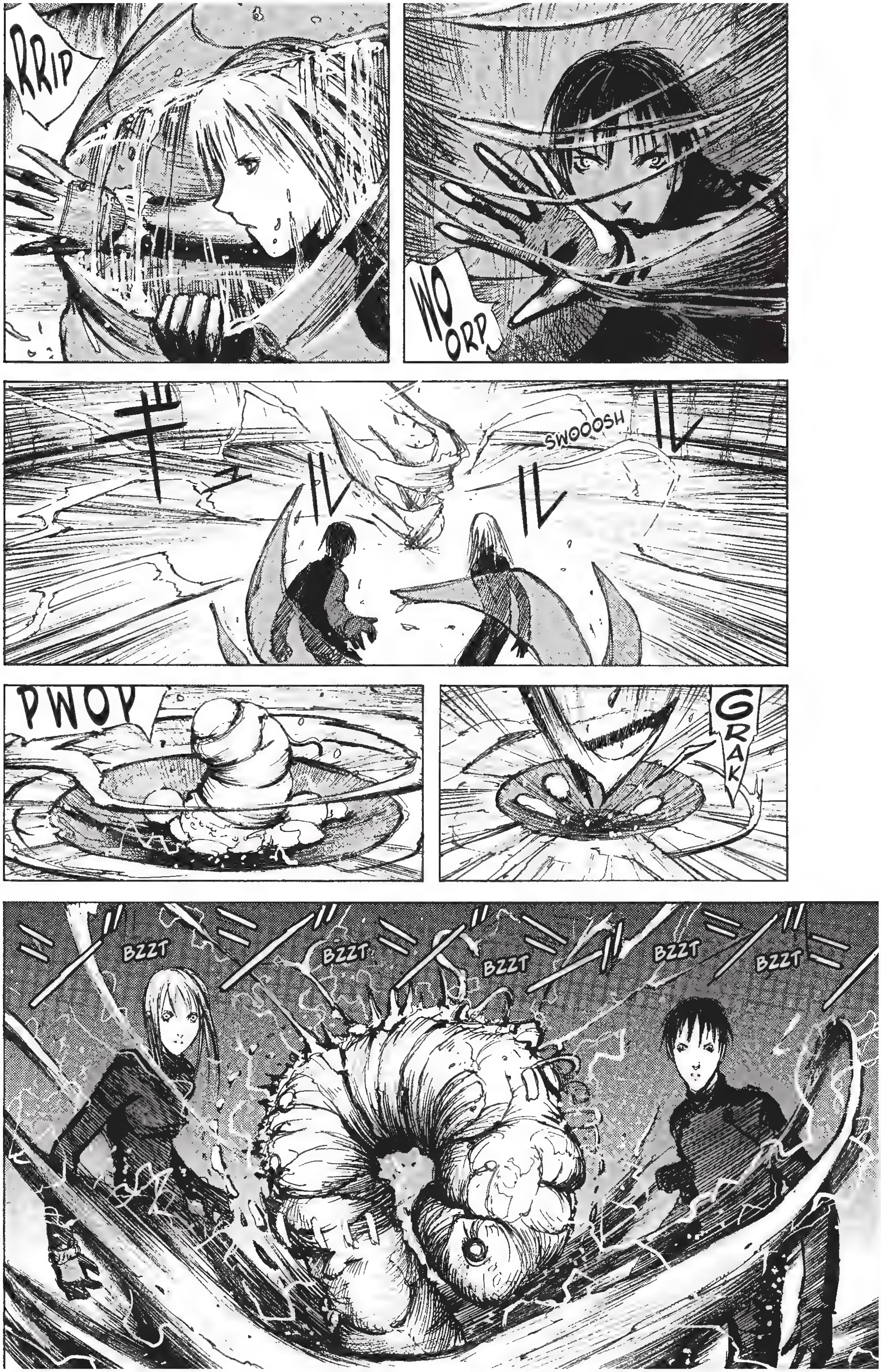

SO EVEN THAT EXPLOSION DIDN'T MAKE A DENT IN THE MEGA-STRUCTURE, CIBO?
THAT'S RIGHT ...
ANYWAY, WHEN WE GET TO THE TOP, I'M HOPING YOU CAN, KYRII.

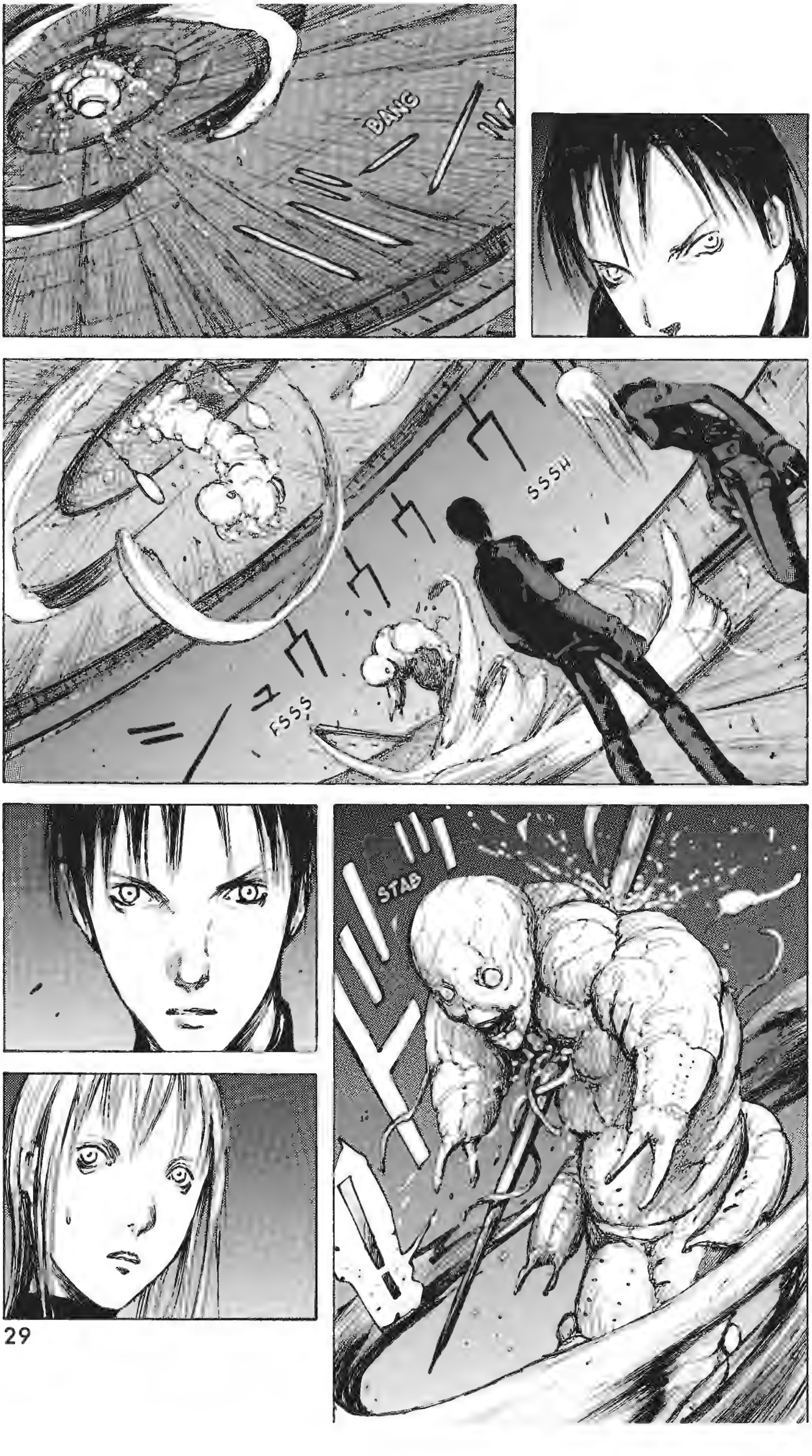


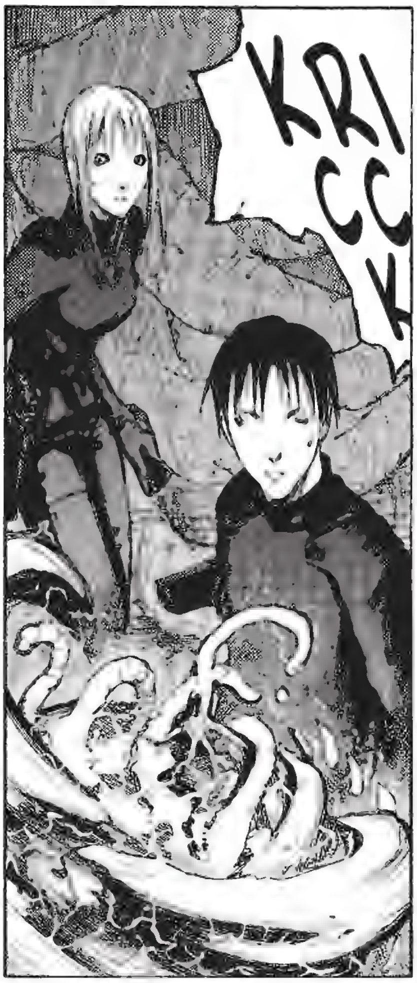

IT'S NOT MUCH FURTHER. BUT LET'S CAMP HERE FOR TODAY.
KA CHI NG
PASHAK
VWOOSH
GRIP
KLICK

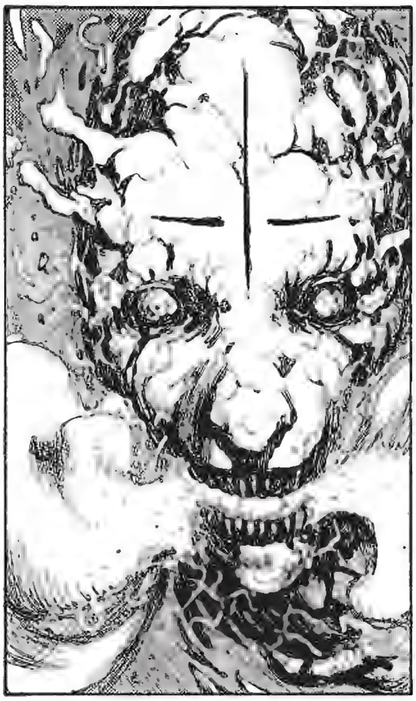

HOW DO I TAKE THIS OFF?
IT'LL BE A LITTLE LONGER BEFORE YOU'RE HEALED.
TUG
OR NOT...

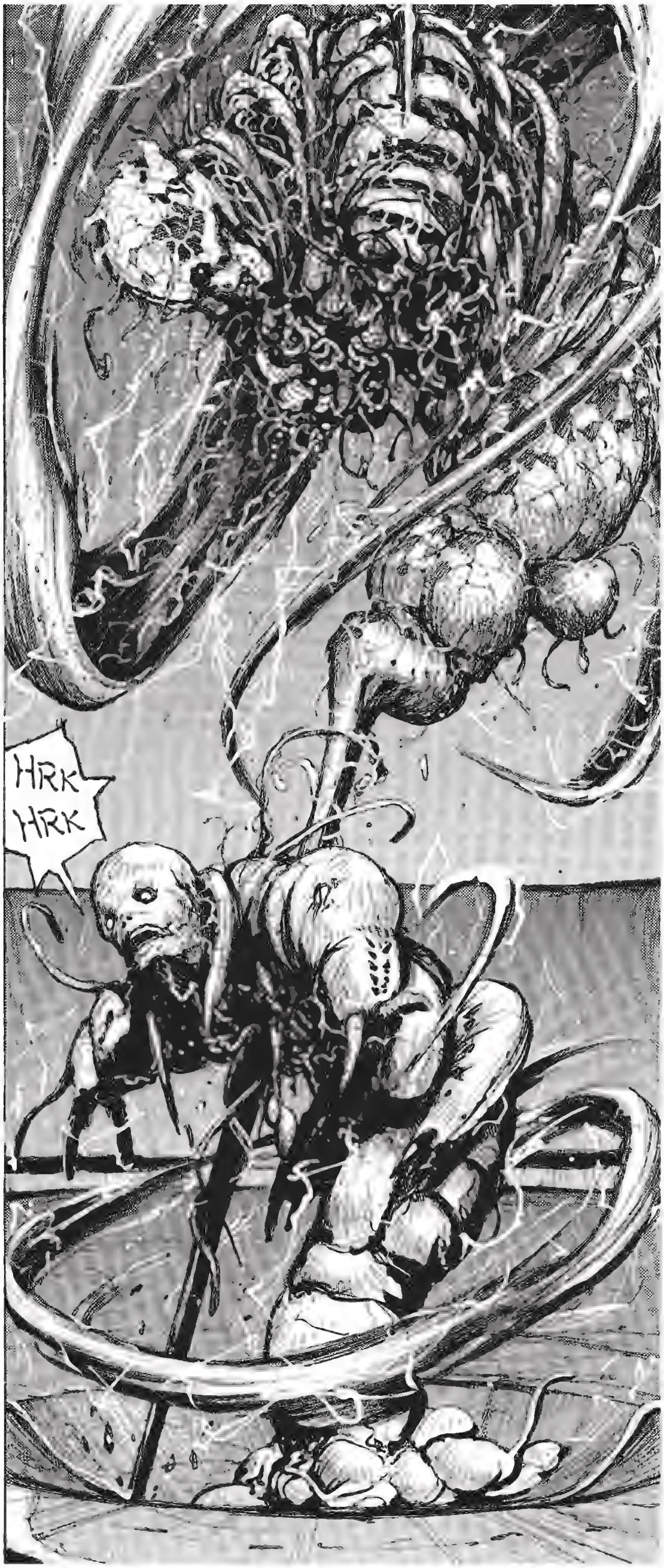

ZAAAAPP

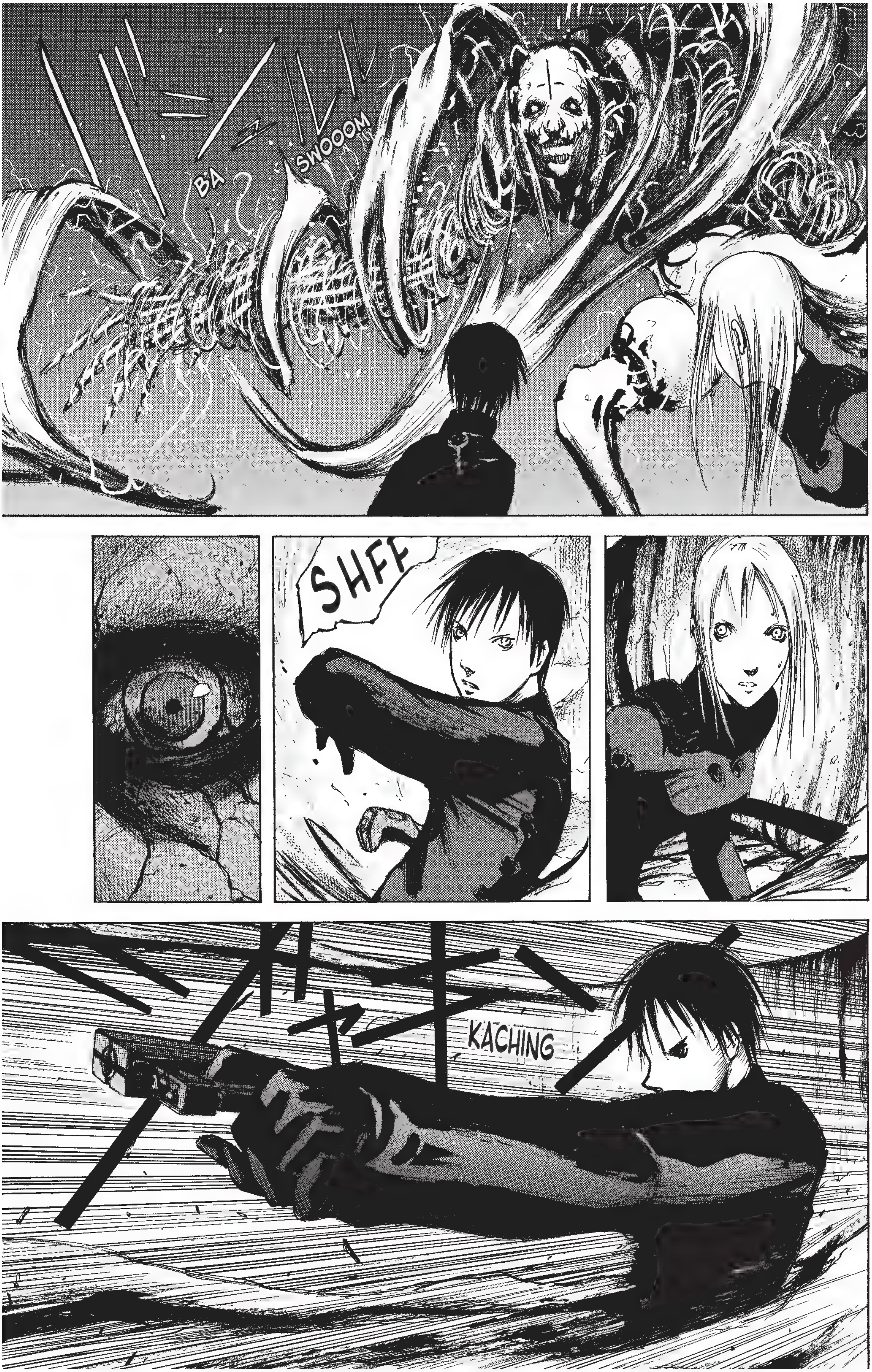

WO ORP
RRIP
SWOOOSH
GRAK
PWOP
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT

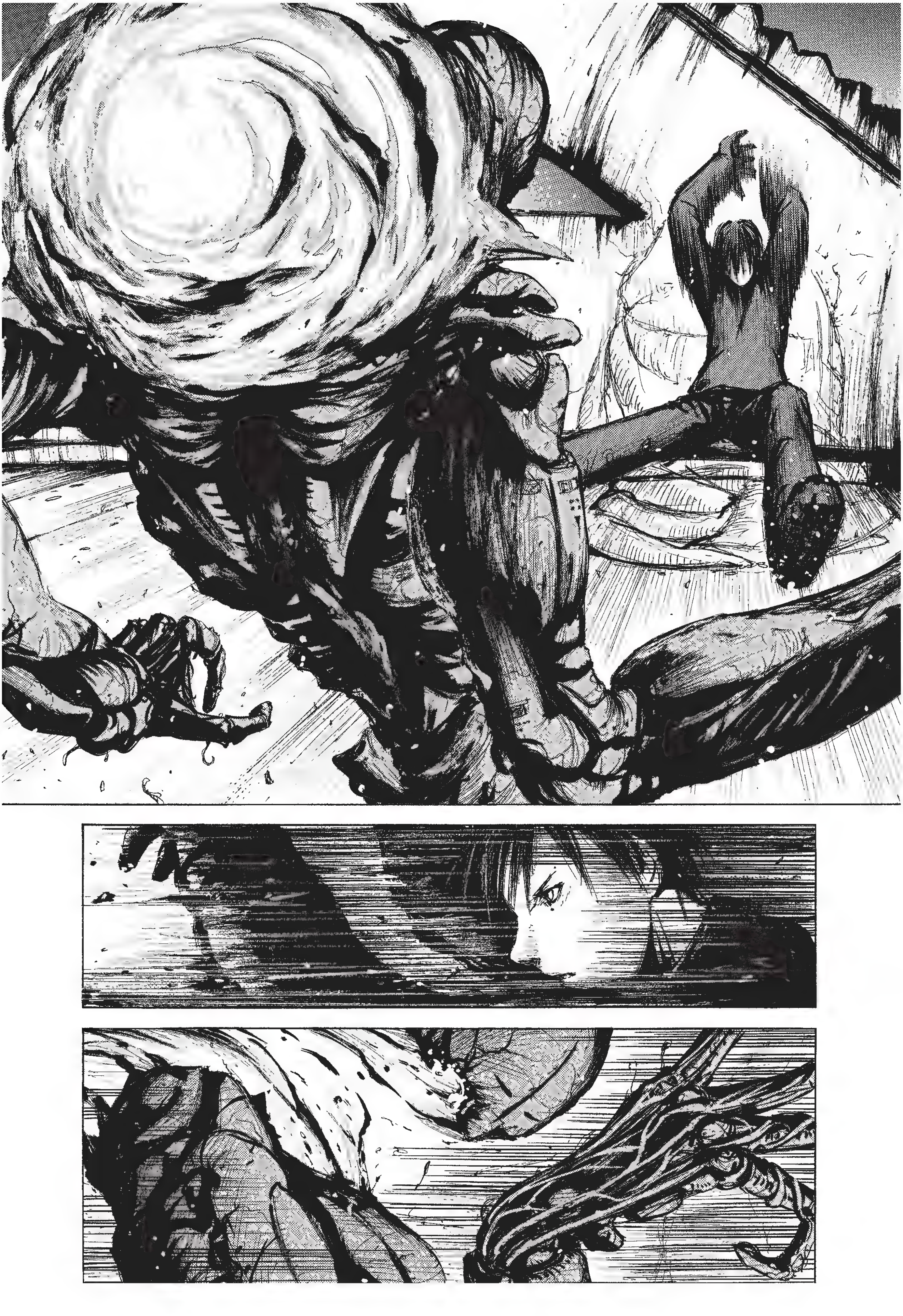

BANG
SSSH
FSSS
STAB

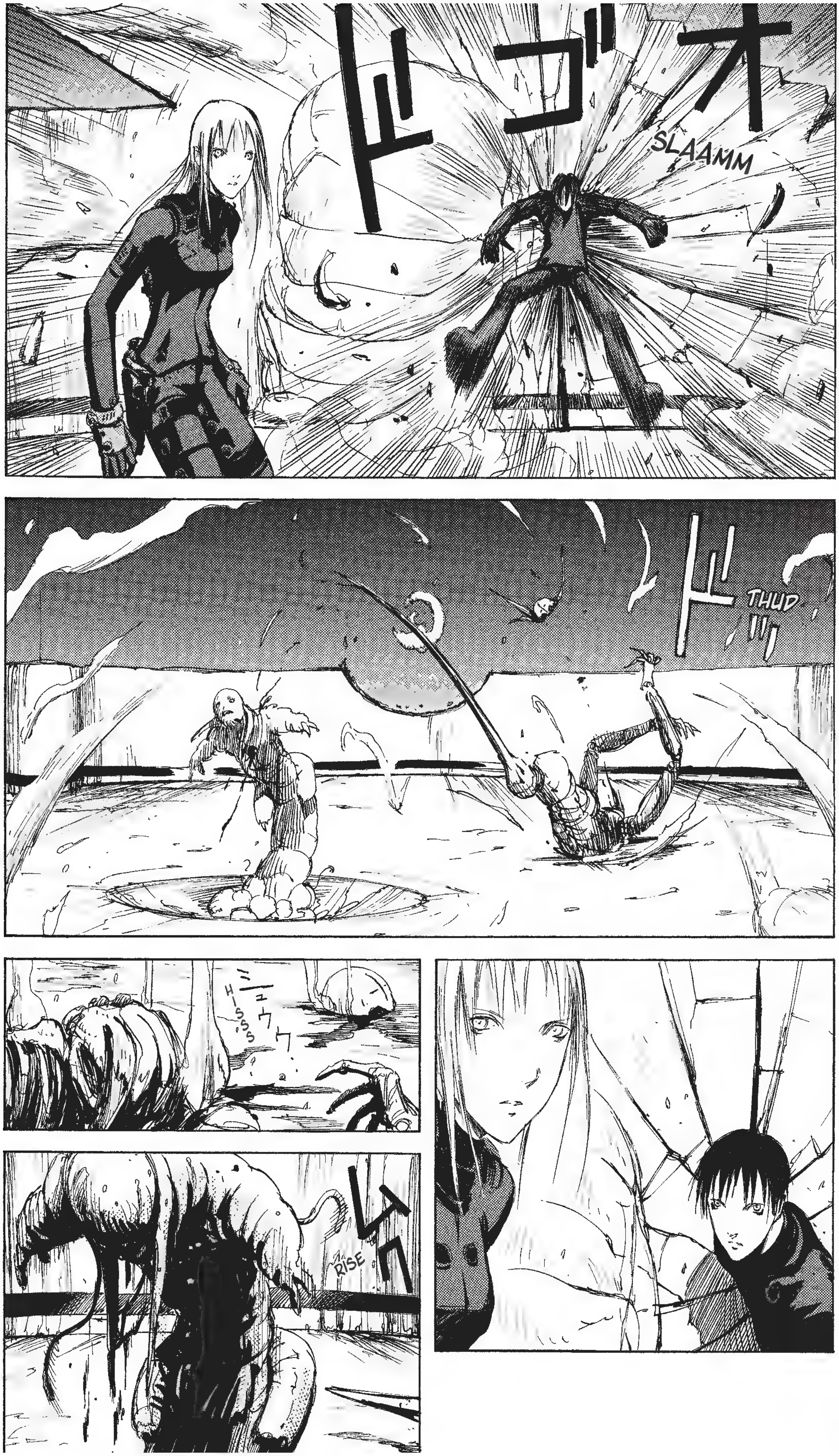

KRICCK

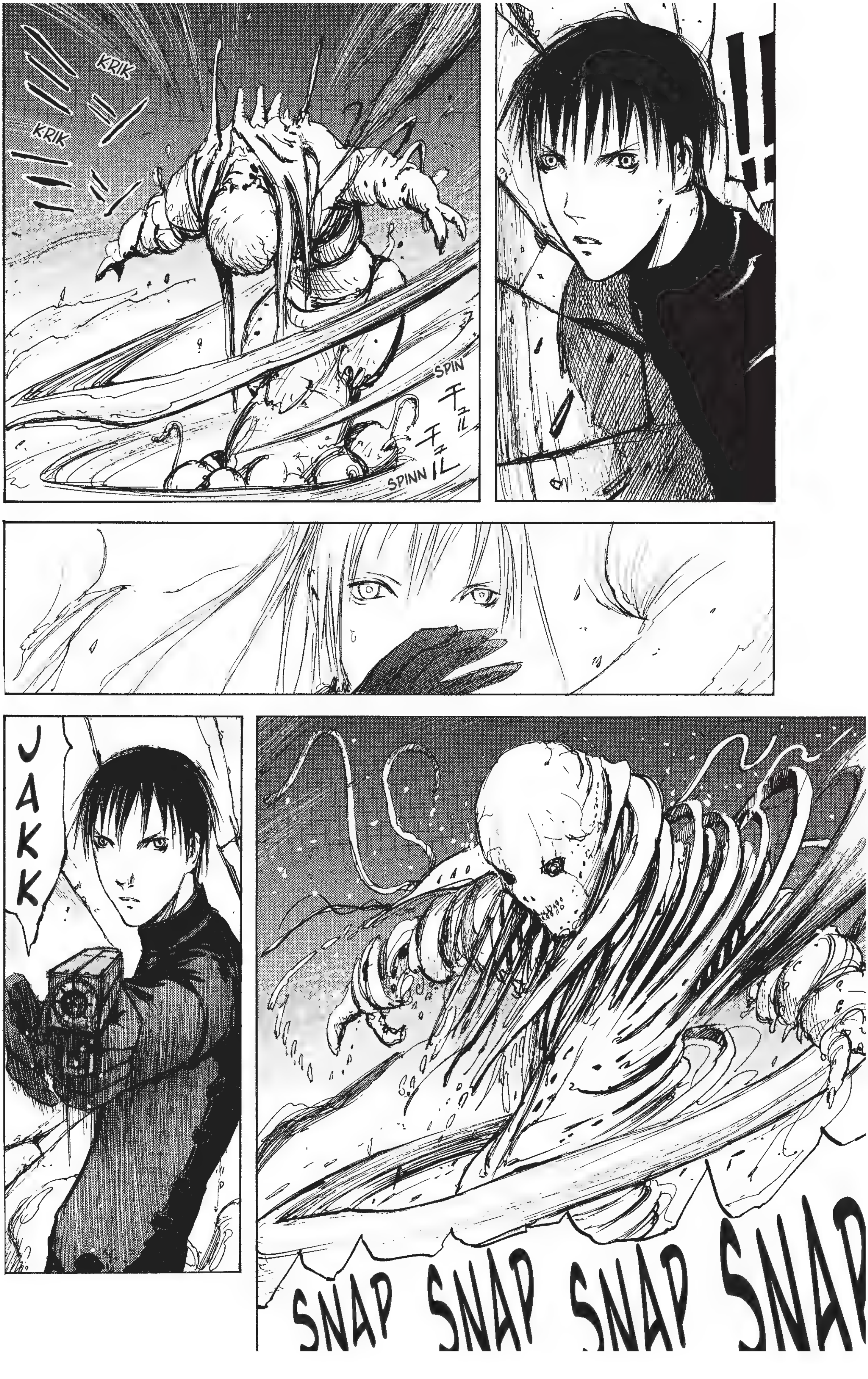


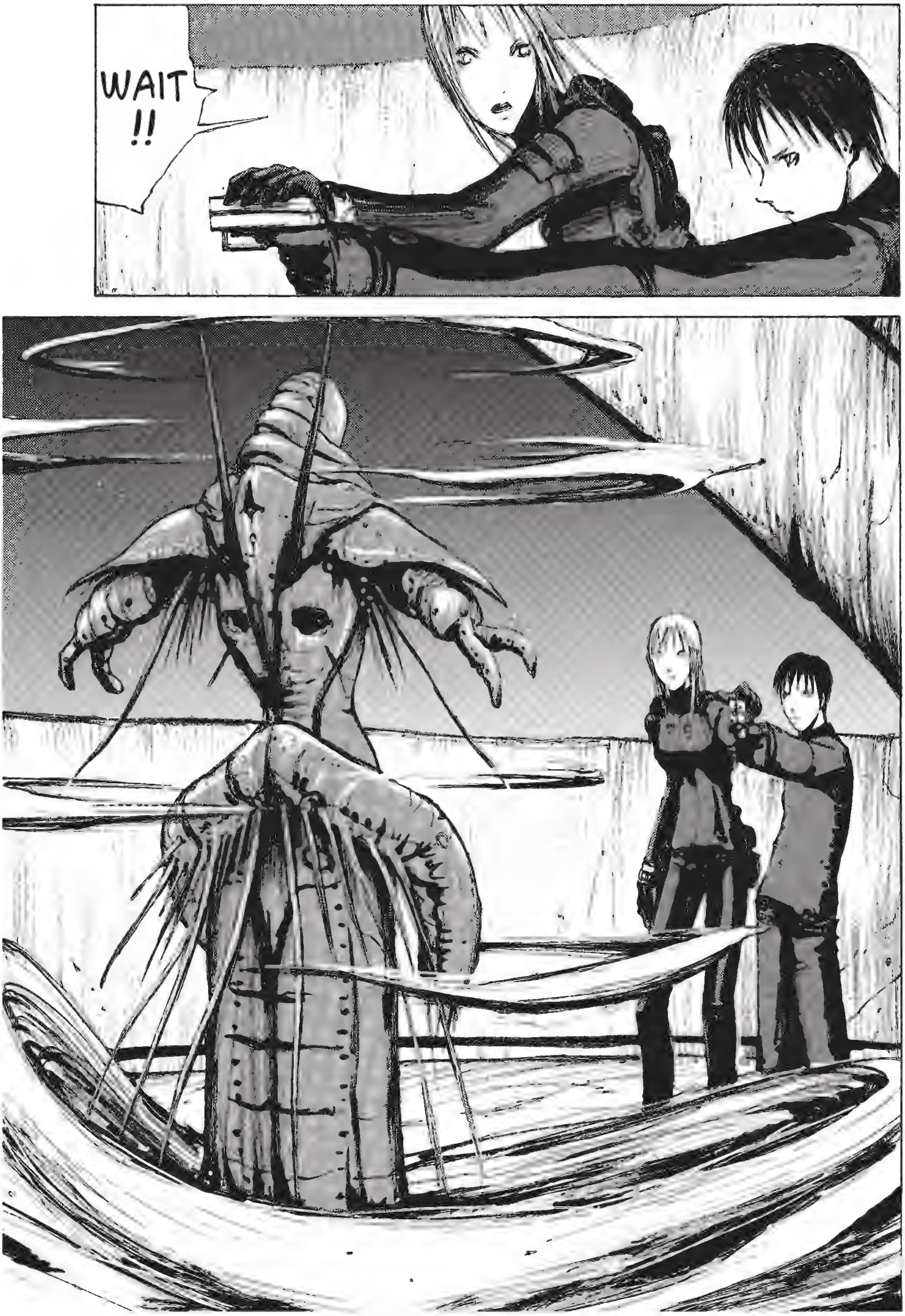

HRK HRK

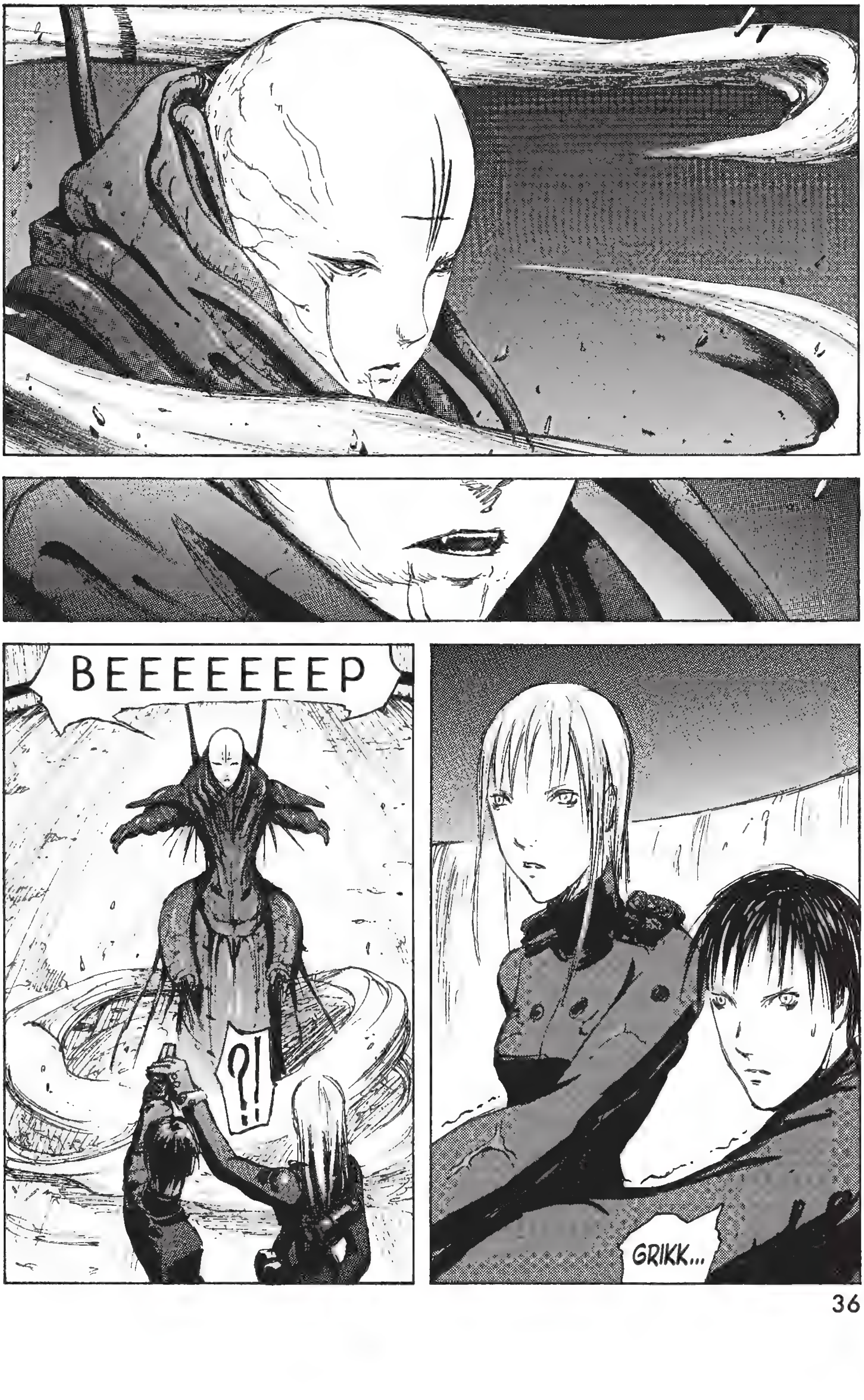

SWOOOM
BA
SHFF
KACHING

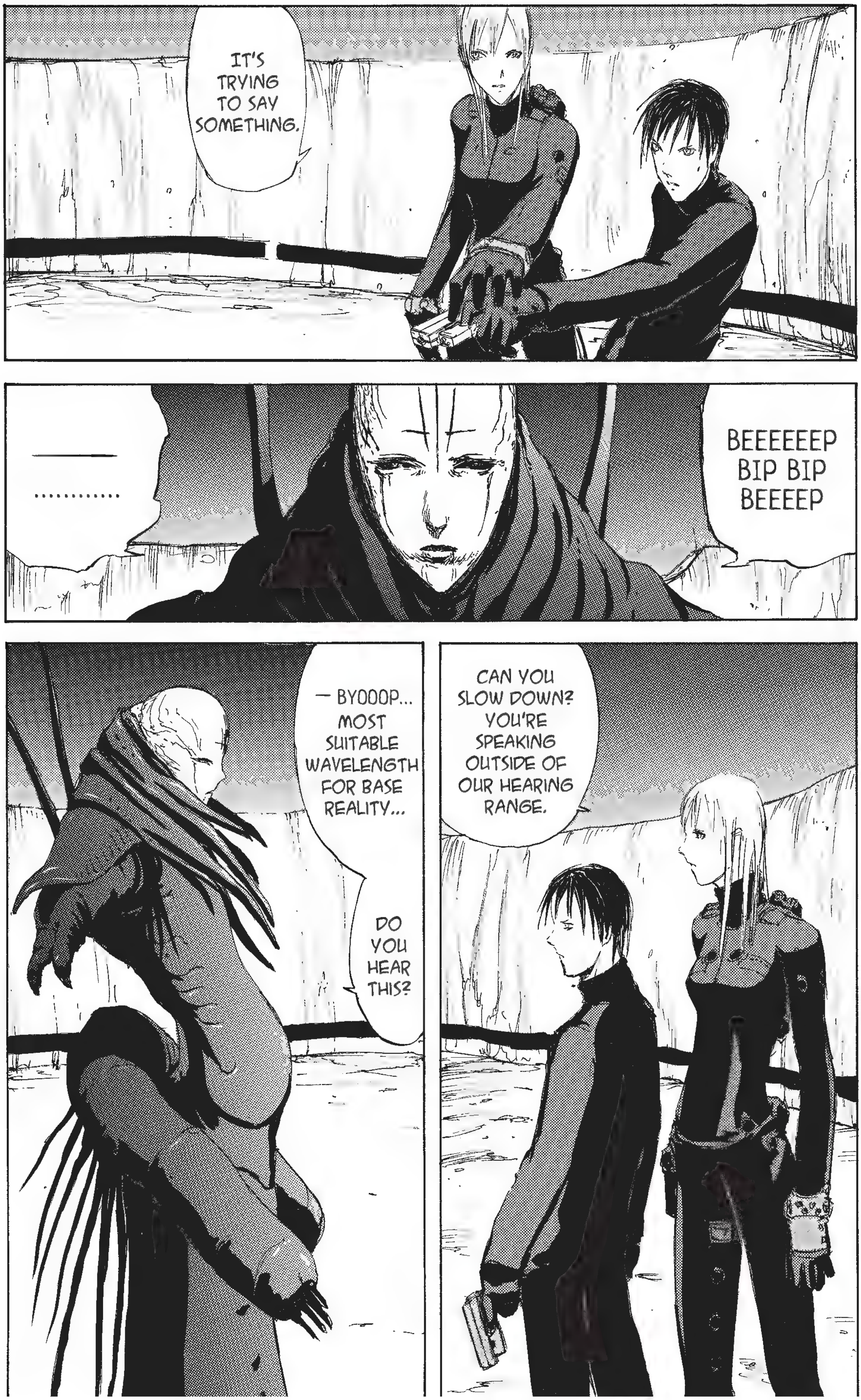


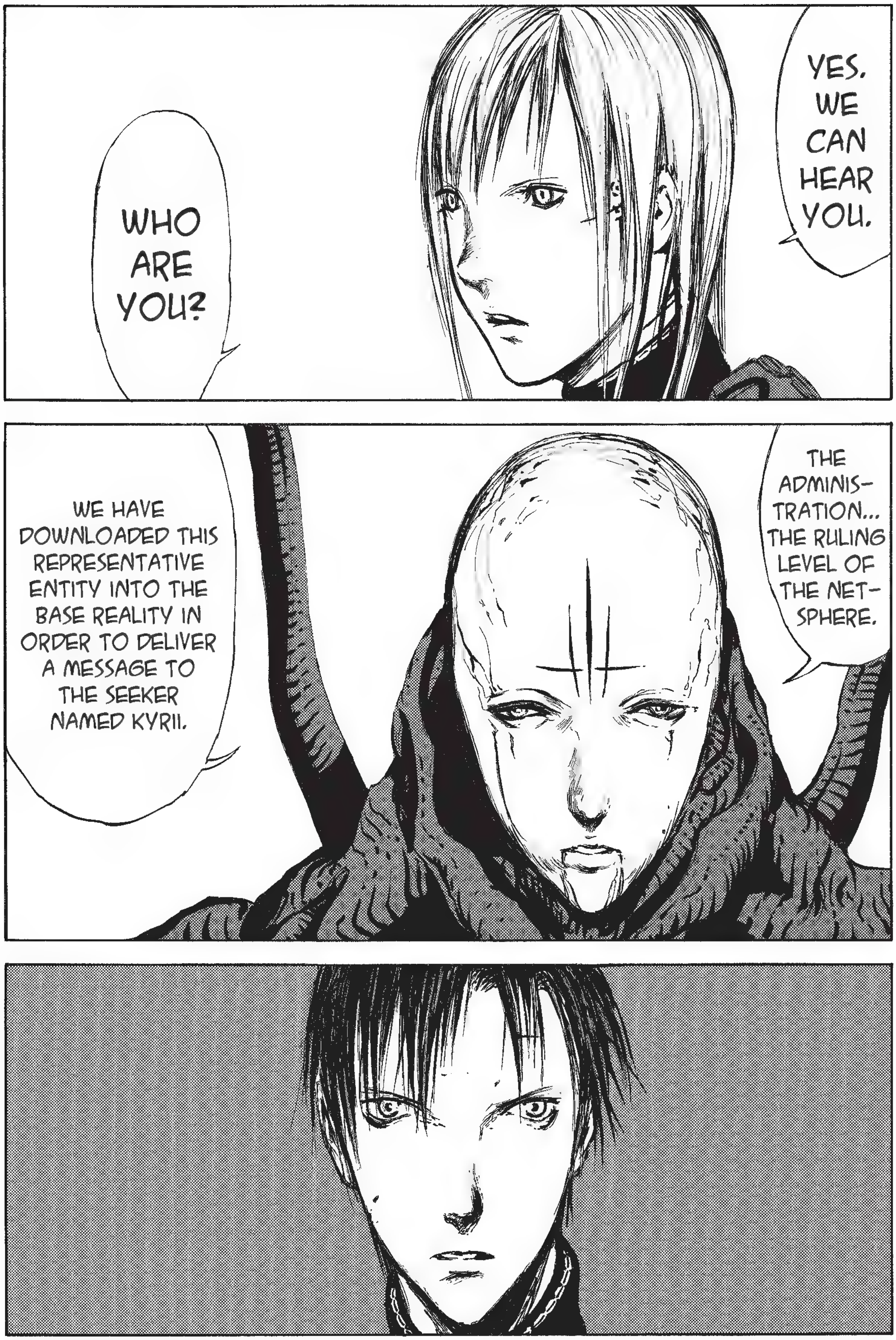

ドゴオ
SLAAMM
ドッ
THUD
シュウウ
HISSSS
ムク
RISE


!!
KRIK
KRIK
SPIN
チュル
チュル
SPINN
SNAP SNAP SNAP SNAP
JAKK

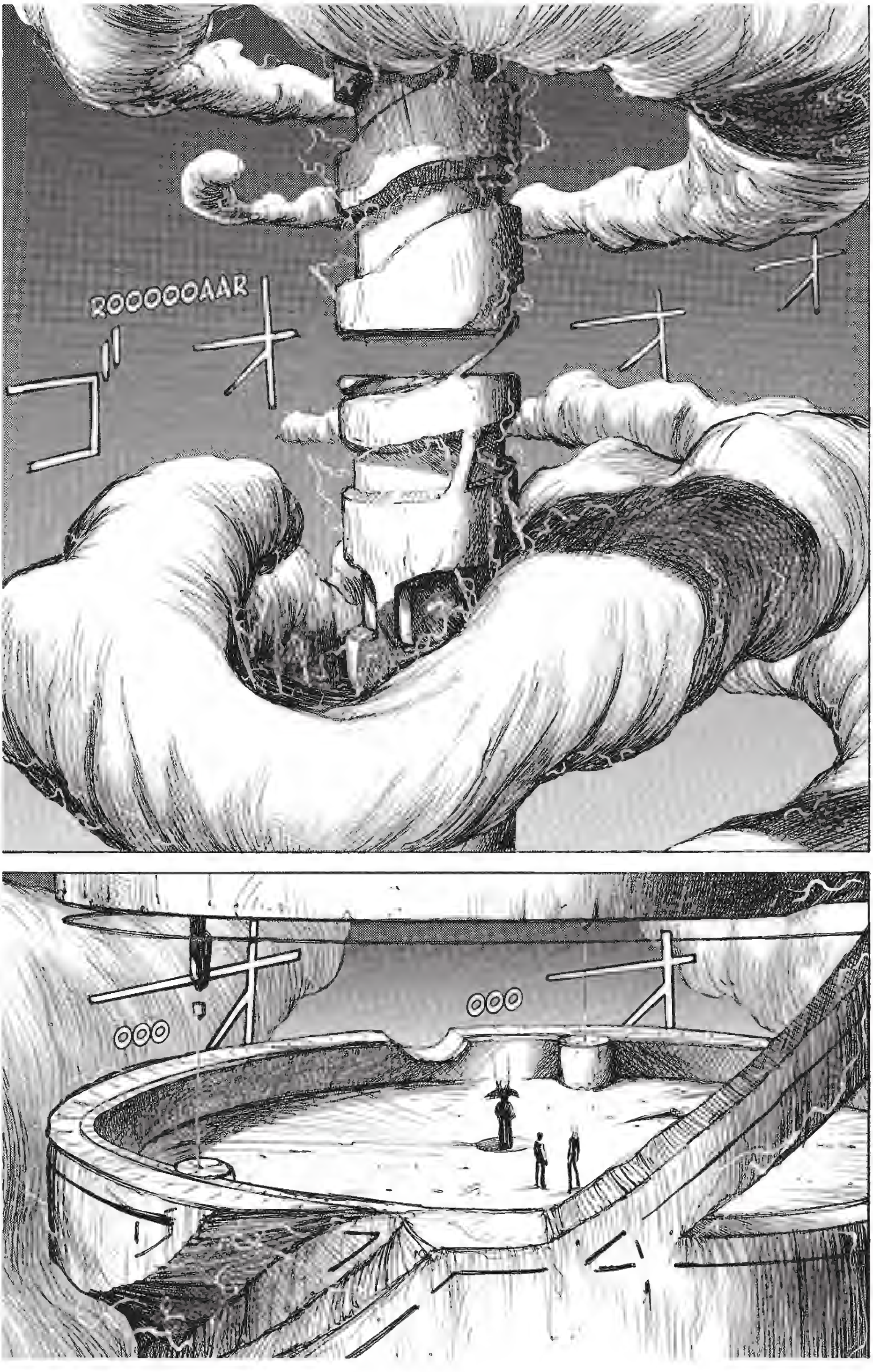

WAIT !!


GRIKK...
BEEEEEEEP
?!


IT'S TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING.
BEEEEEEP BIP BIP BEEEEP
———
....
CAN YOU SLOW DOWN? YOU'RE SPEAKING OUTSIDE OF OUR HEARING RANGE.
— BYOOOP... MOST SUITABLE WAVELENGTH FOR BASE REALITY...
DO YOU HEAR THIS?


YES. WE CAN HEAR YOU.
WHO ARE YOU?
THE ADMINISTRATION... THE RULING LEVEL OF THE NET-SPHERE.
WE HAVE DOWNLOADED THIS REPRESENTATIVE ENTITY INTO THE BASE REALITY IN ORDER TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO THE SEEKER NAMED KYRII.

LOG.10:::END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ROOOOOAAR
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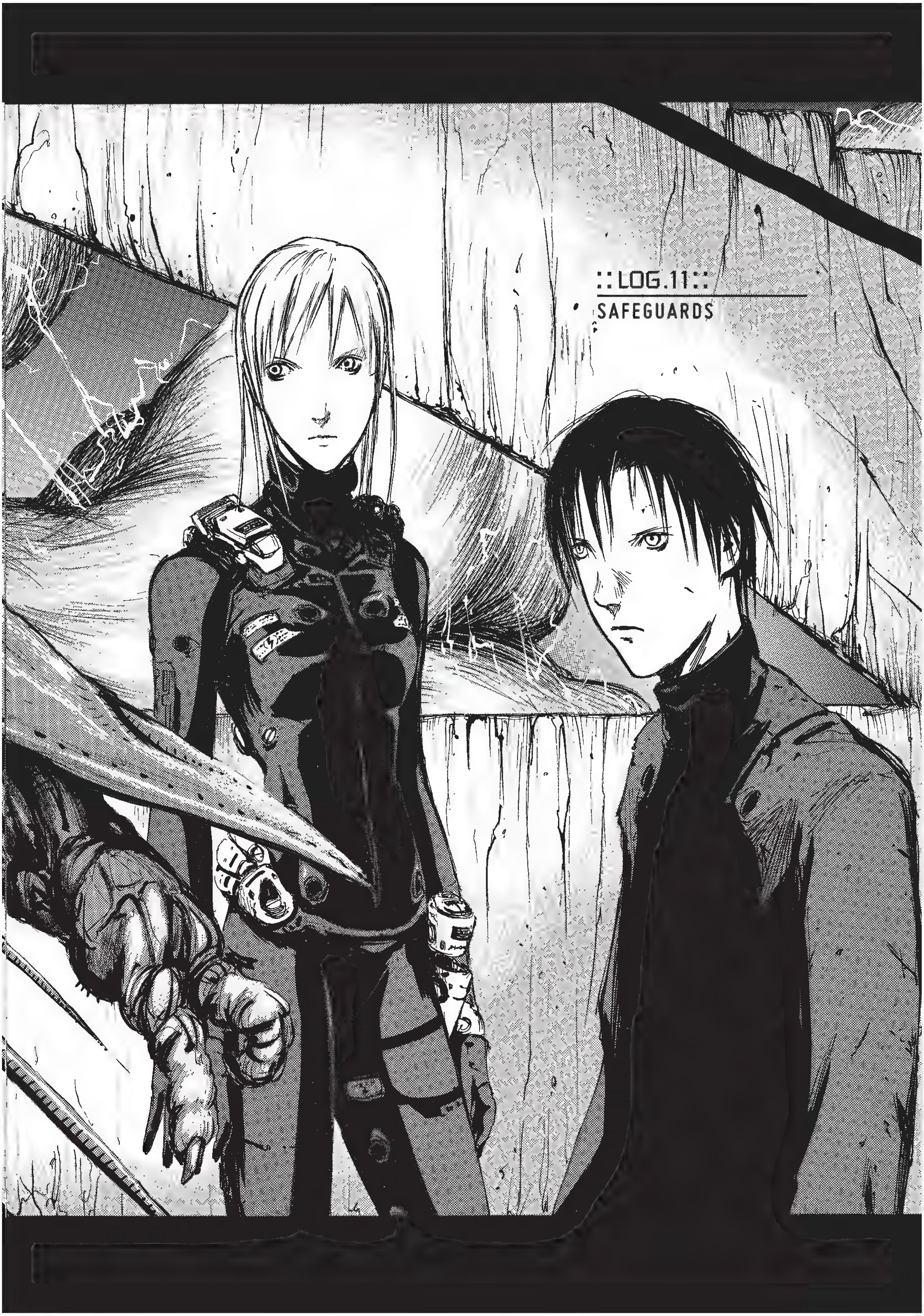
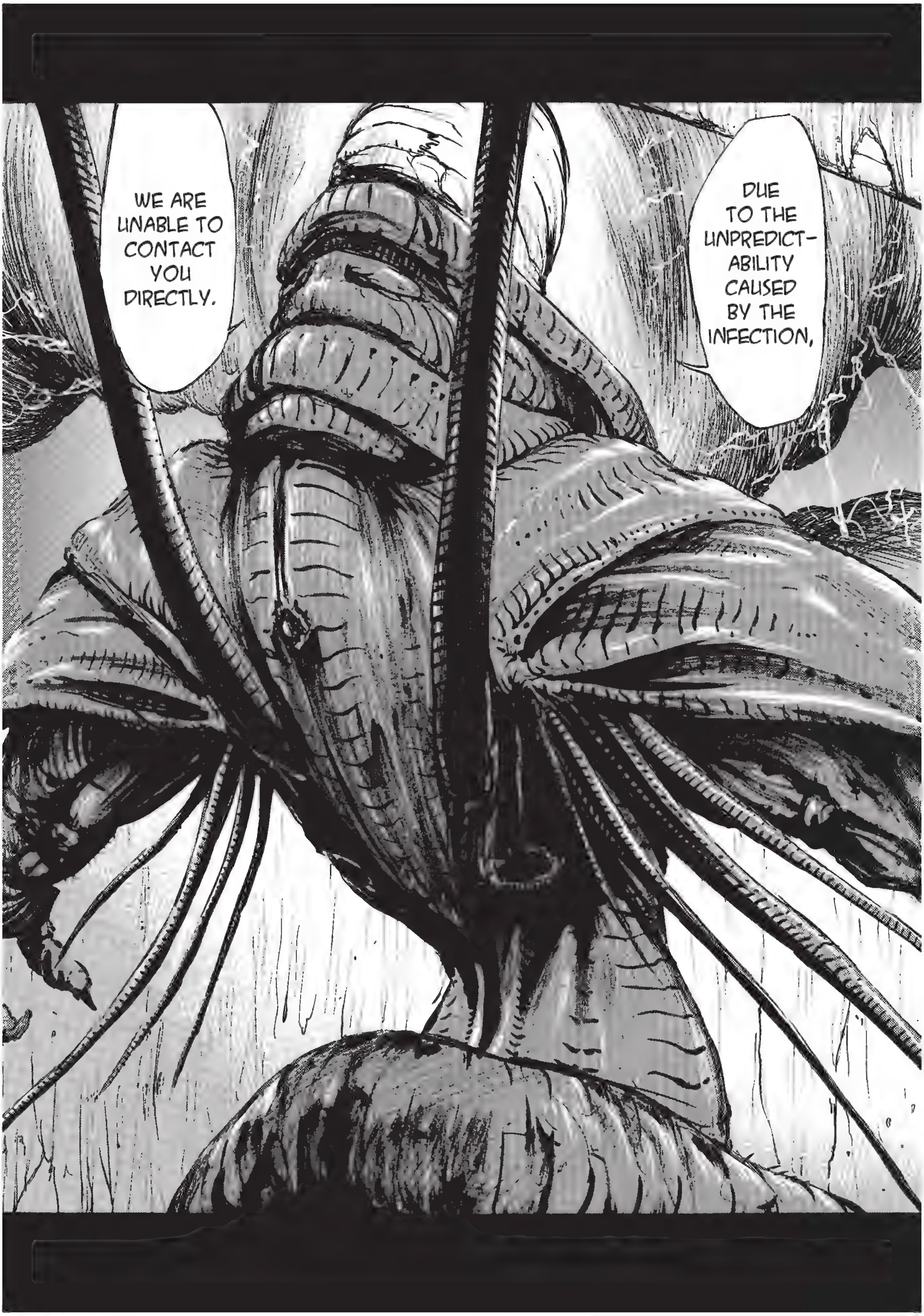
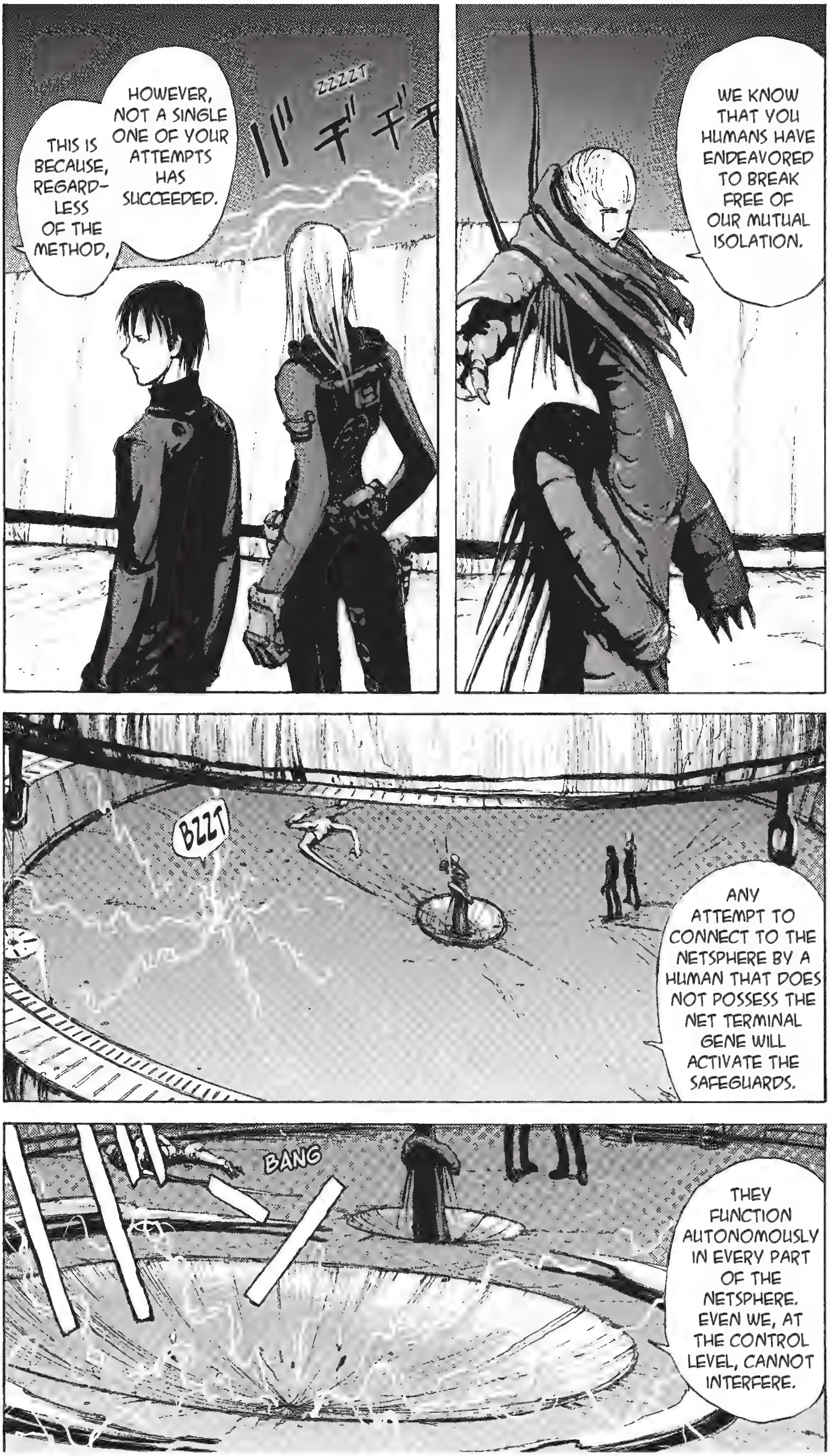
OOO

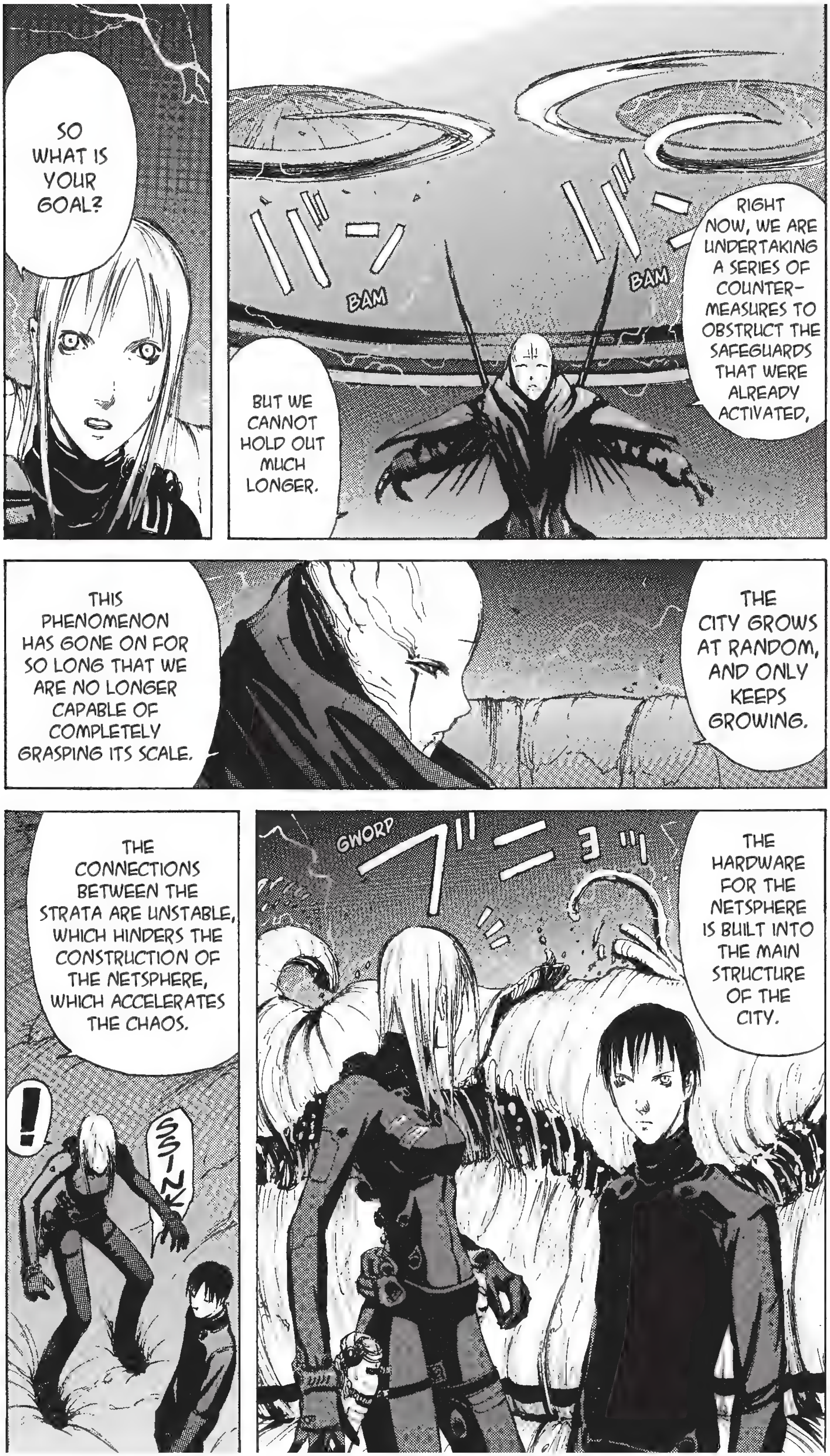


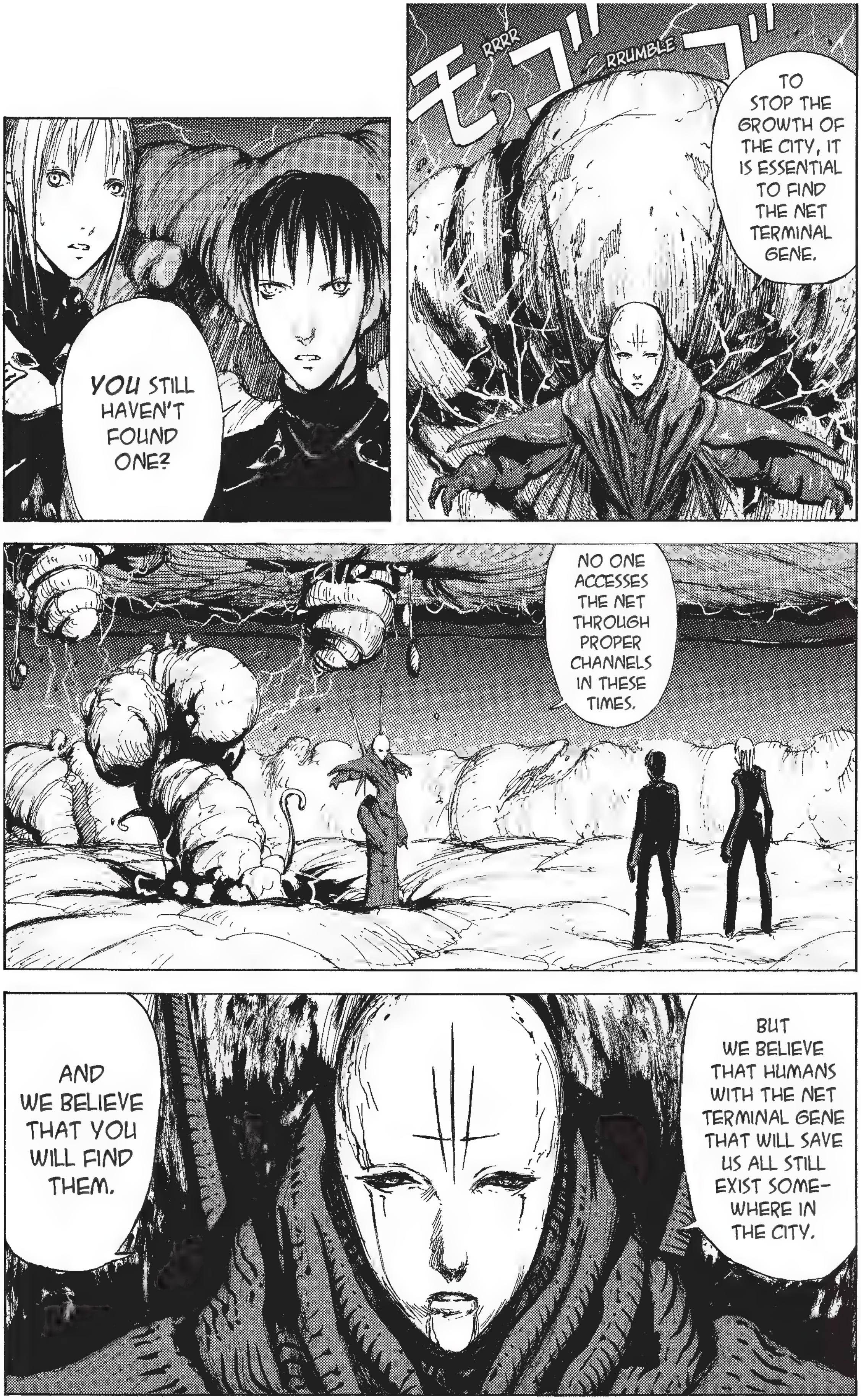
::LOG.11::

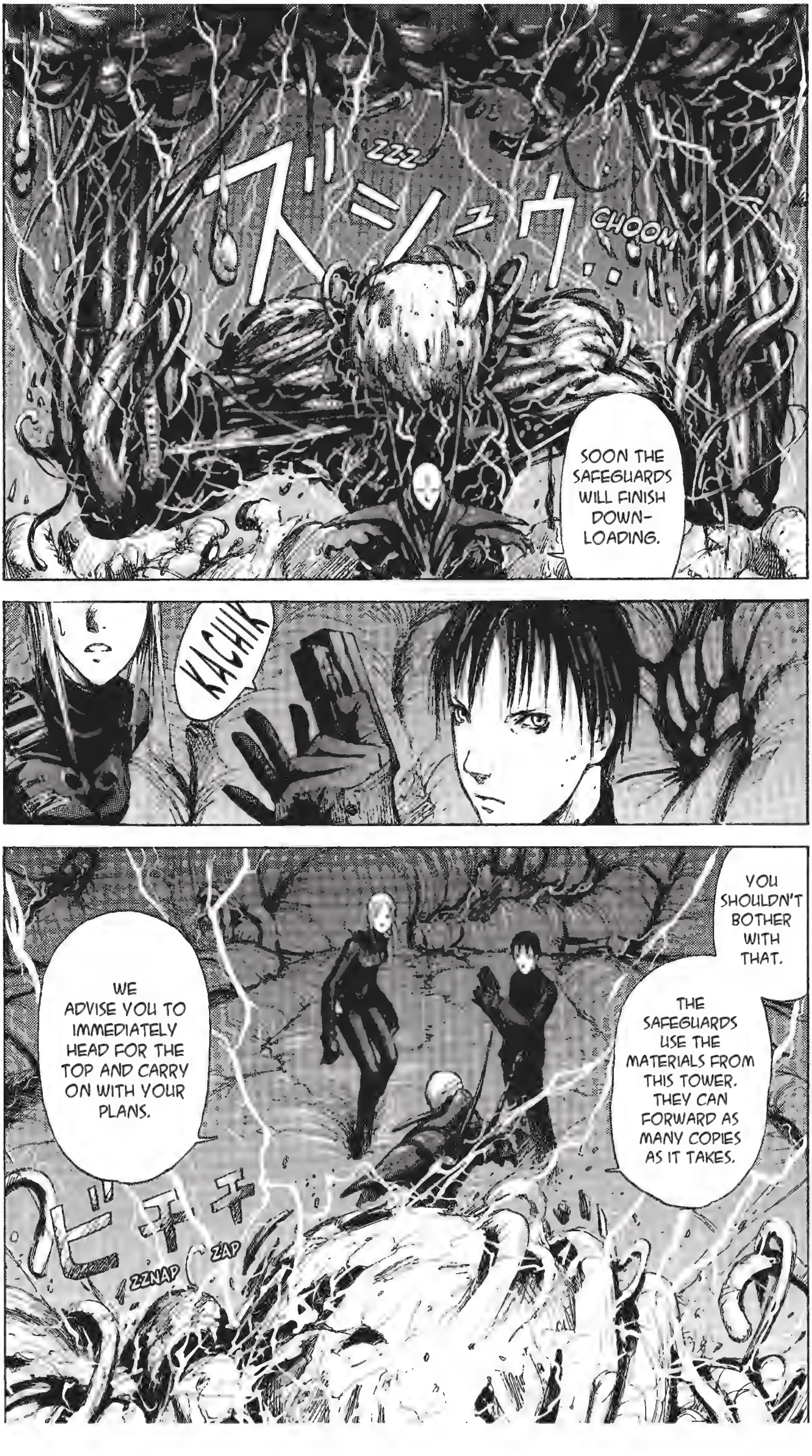
SAFEGUARDS

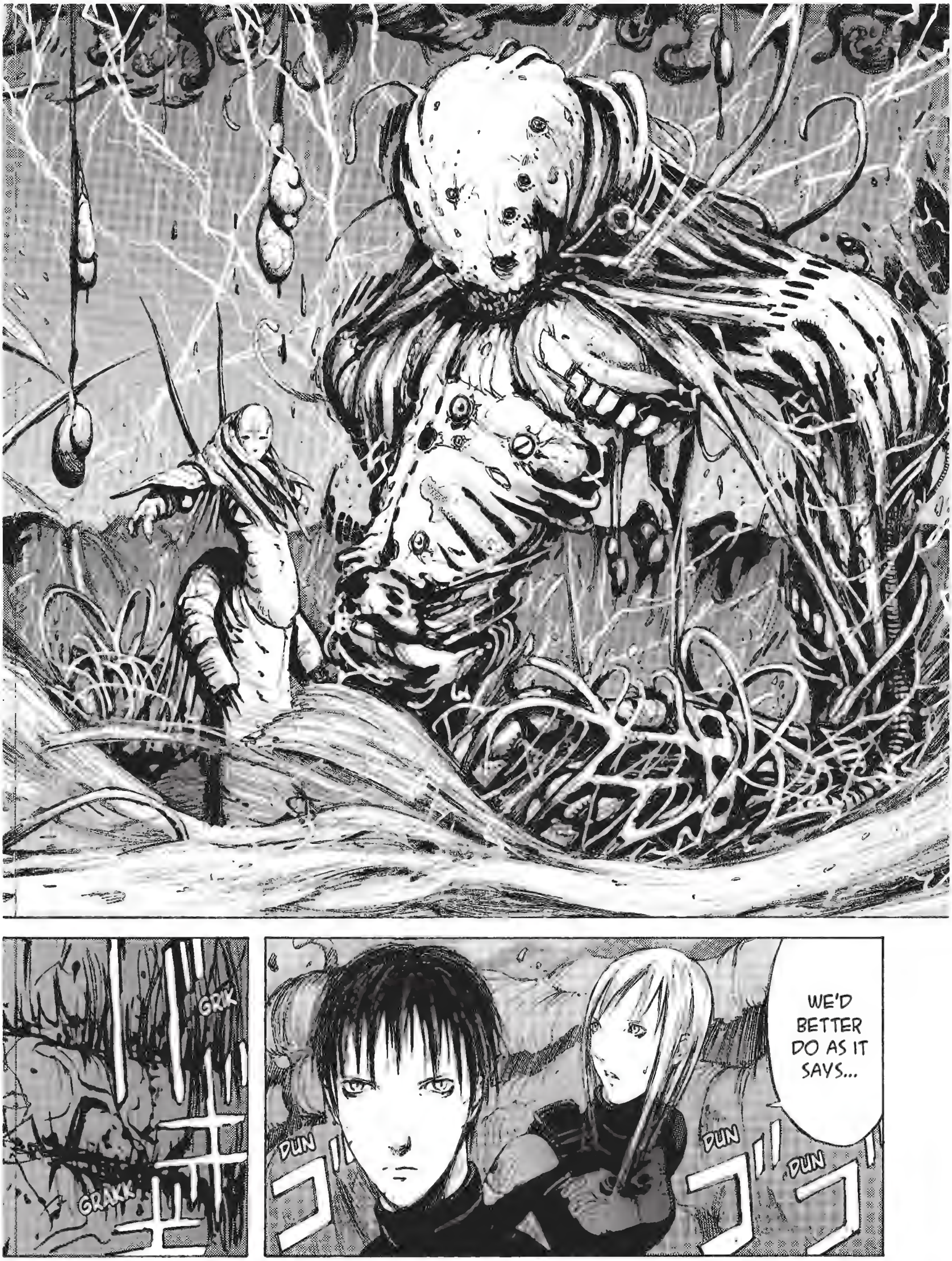

DUE TO THE UNPREDICTABILITY CAUSED BY THE INFECTION,
WE ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT YOU DIRECTLY.

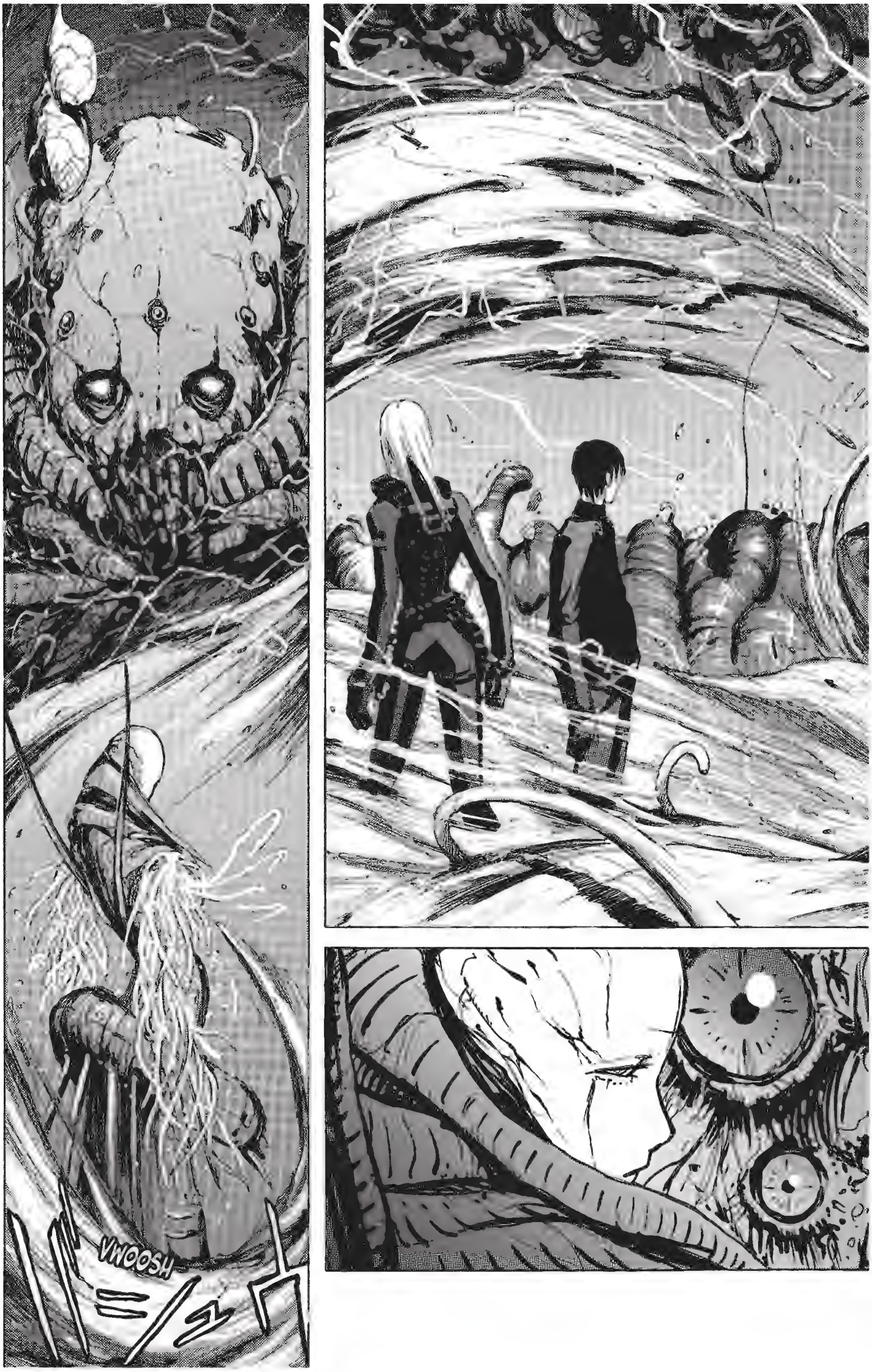

WE KNOW THAT YOU HUMANS HAVE ENDEAVORED TO BREAK FREE OF OUR MUTUAL ISOLATION.
ZZZZT
バヂヂ
HOWEVER, NOT A SINGLE ONE OF YOUR ATTEMPTS HAS SUCCEEDED.
THIS IS BECAUSE, REGARDLESS OF THE METHOD,
BZZT
ANY ATTEMPT TO CONNECT TO THE NETSPHERE BY A HUMAN THAT DOES NOT POSSESS THE NET TERMINAL GENE WILL ACTIVATE THE SAFEGUARDS.
BANG
THEY FUNCTION AUTONOMOUSLY IN EVERY PART OF THE NETSPHERE. EVEN WE, AT THE CONTROL LEVEL, CANNOT INTERFERE.

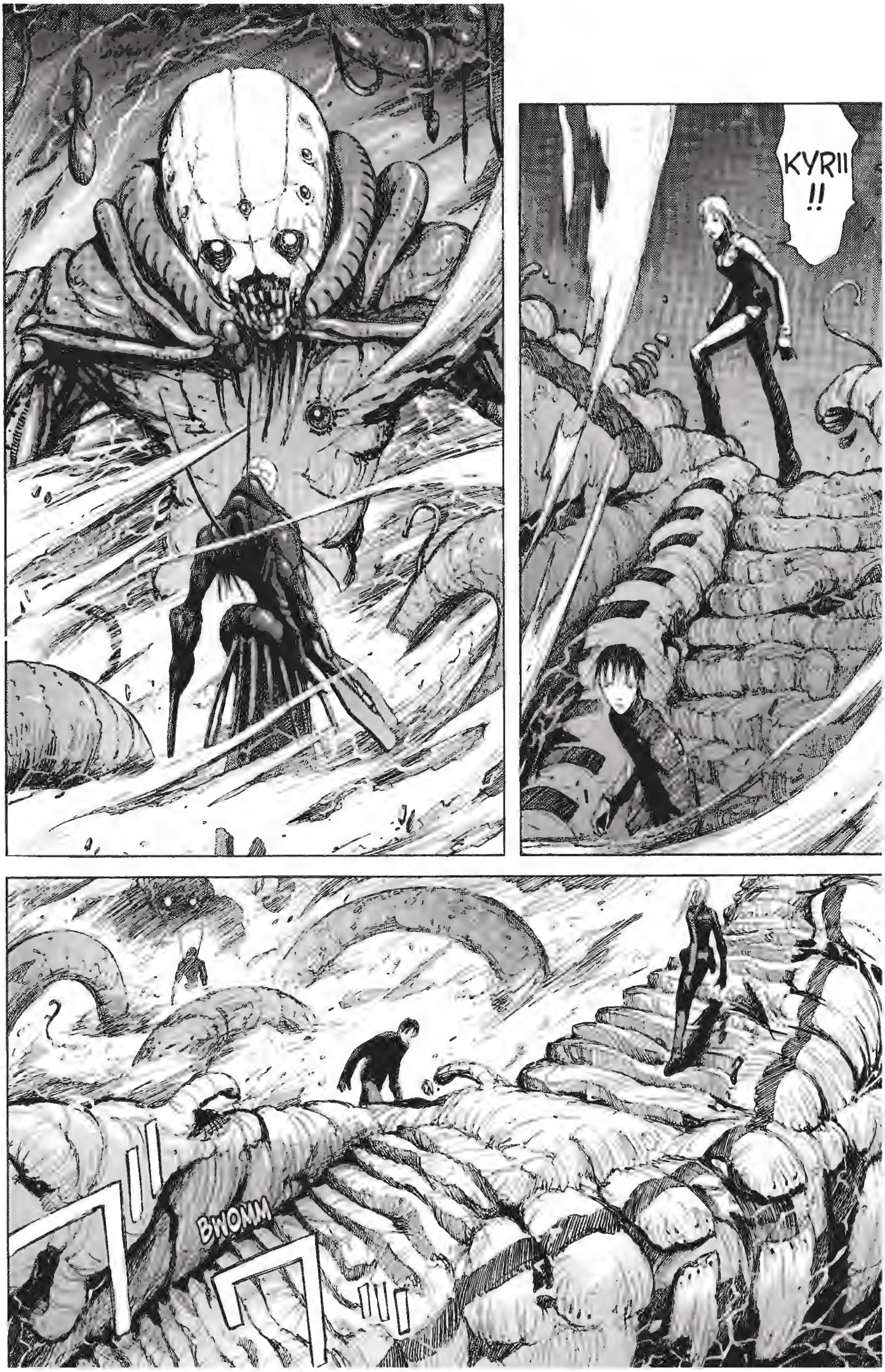

RIGHT NOW, WE ARE UNDERTAKING A SERIES OF COUNTER-MEASURES TO OBSTRUCT THE SAFEGUARDS THAT WERE ALREADY ACTIVATED,
BAM
BAM
BUT WE CANNOT HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER.
SO WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?
THE CITY GROWS AT RANDOM, AND ONLY KEEPS GROWING.
THIS PHENOMENON HAS GONE ON FOR SO LONG THAT WE ARE NO LONGER CAPABLE OF COMPLETELY GRASPING ITS SCALE.
THE HARDWARE FOR THE NETSPHERE IS BUILT INTO THE MAIN STRUCTURE OF THE CITY.
GWORP
THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE STRATA ARE UNSTABLE, WHICH HINDERS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NETSPHERE, WHICH ACCELERATES THE CHAOS.
!
SSINK

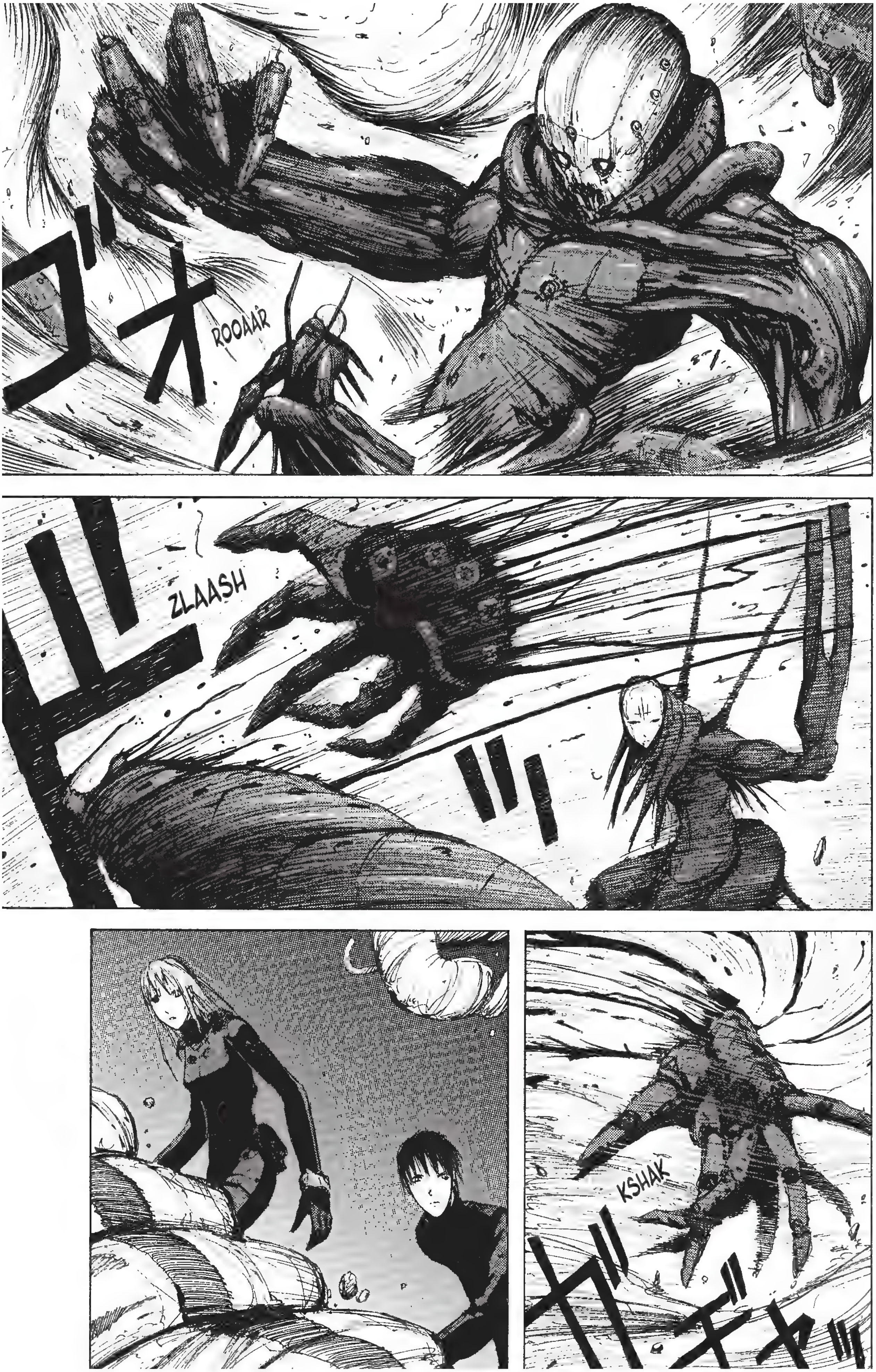

モゴ
RRRR
ゴ
RRUMBLE
TO STOP THE GROWTH OF THE CITY, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO FIND THE NET TERMINAL GENE.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND ONE?
NO ONE ACCESSES THE NET THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS IN THESE TIMES.
BUT WE BELIEVE THAT HUMANS WITH THE NET TERMINAL GENE THAT WILL SAVE US ALL STILL EXIST SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY.
AND WE BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL FIND THEM.

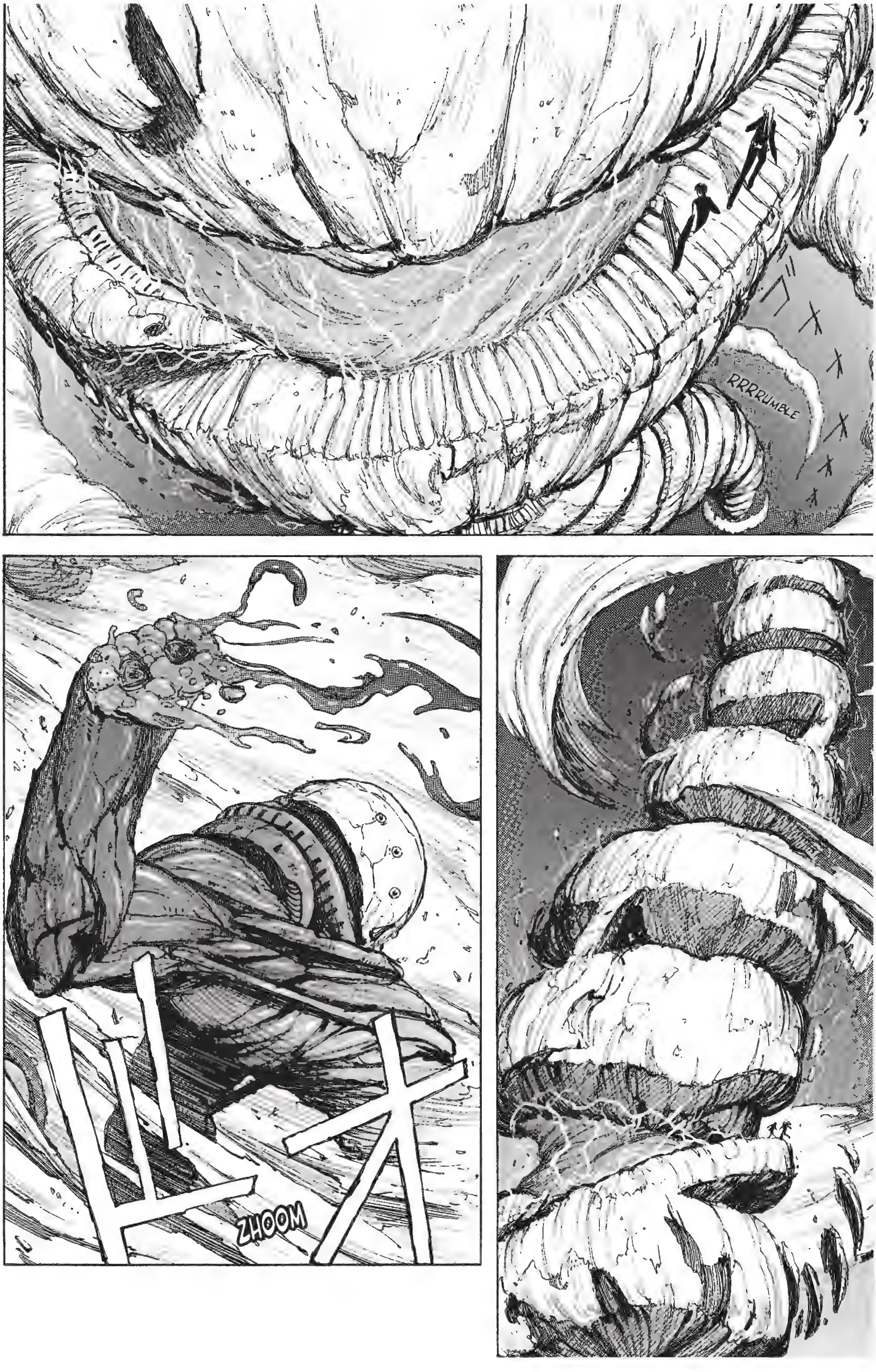

ズジュウ
ZZZ
CHOOM
SOON THE SAFEGUARDS WILL FINISH DOWNLOADING.
KACHIK
YOU SHOULDN'T BOTHER WITH THAT.
THE SAFEGUARDS USE THE MATERIALS FROM THIS TOWER. THEY CAN FORWARD AS MANY COPIES AS IT TAKES.
WE ADVISE YOU TO IMMEDIATELY HEAD FOR THE TOP AND CARRY ON WITH YOUR PLANS.
ビヂヂ
ZAP
ZZNAP

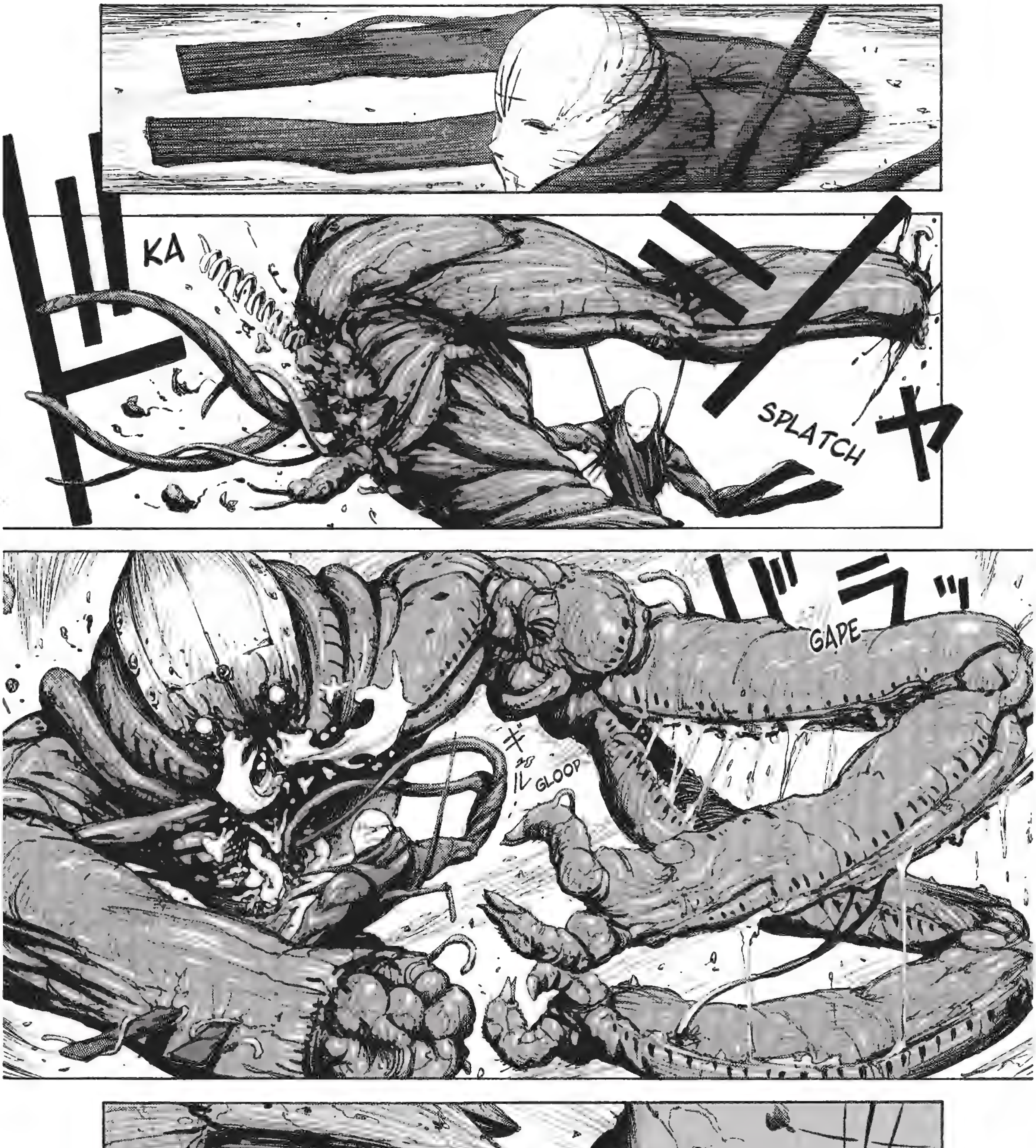

WE'D BETTER DO AS IT SAYS...
DUN
DUN
DUN
GRIK
GRAKK

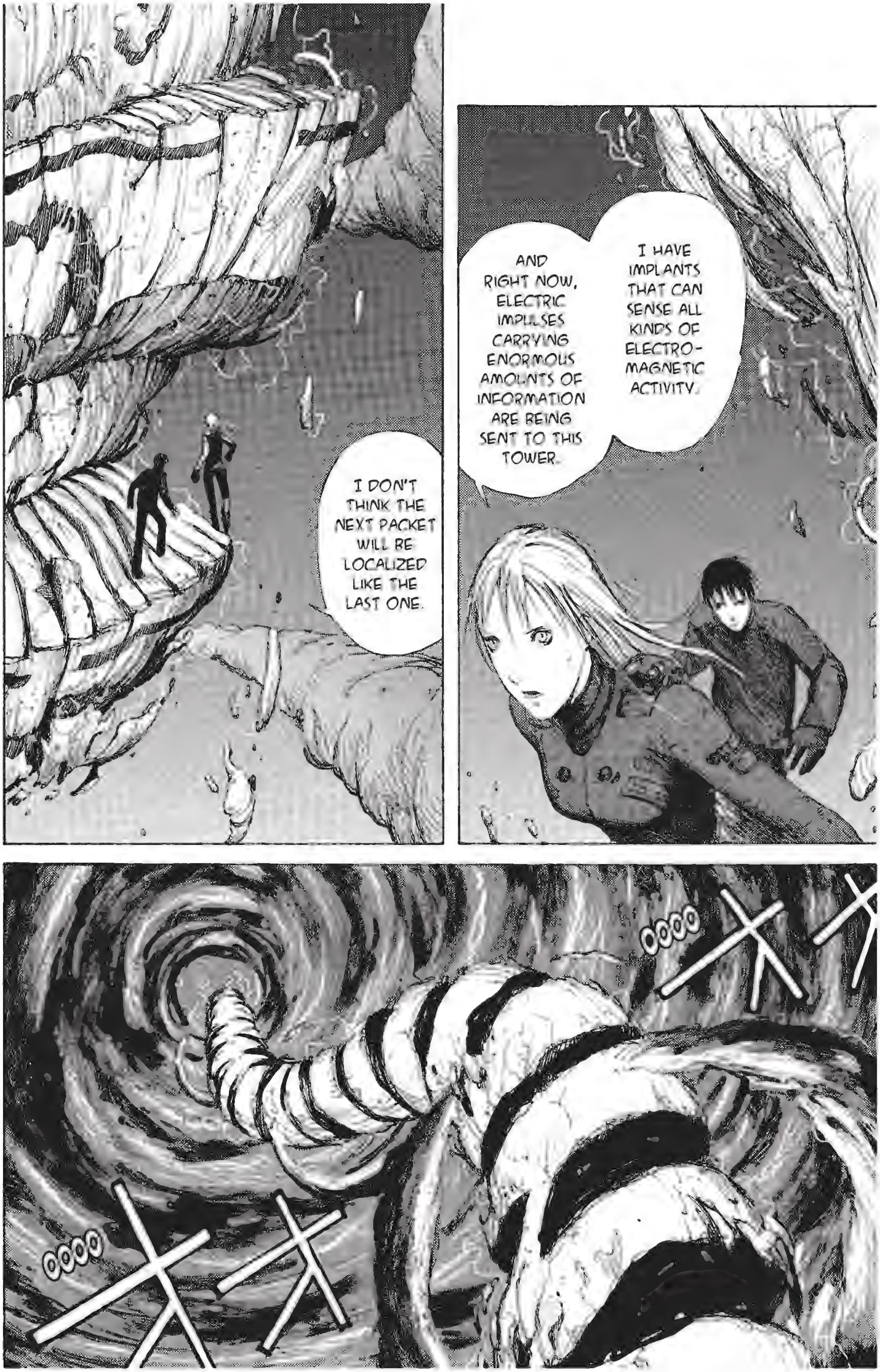

VWOOSH

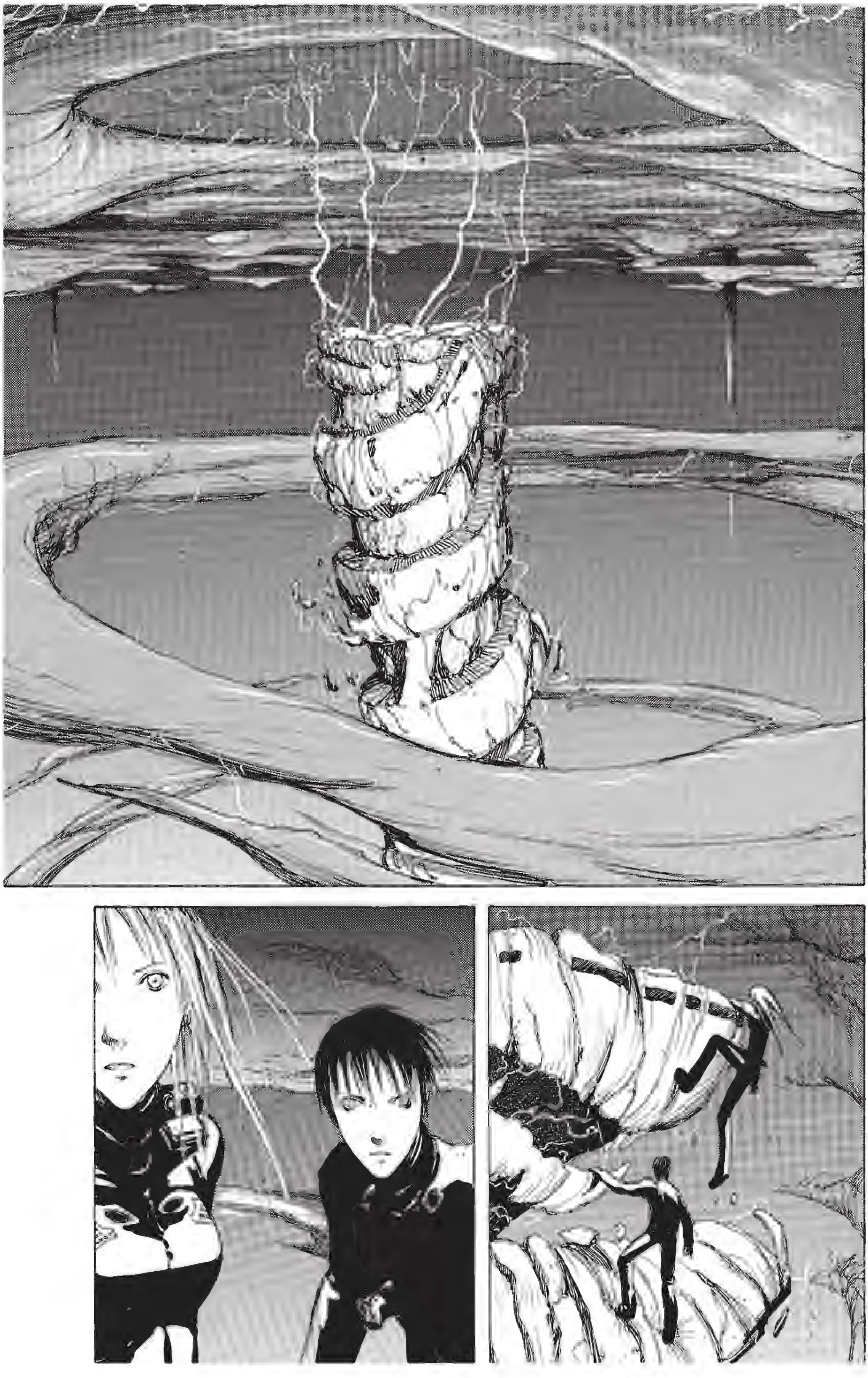

KYRII !!
BWOMM

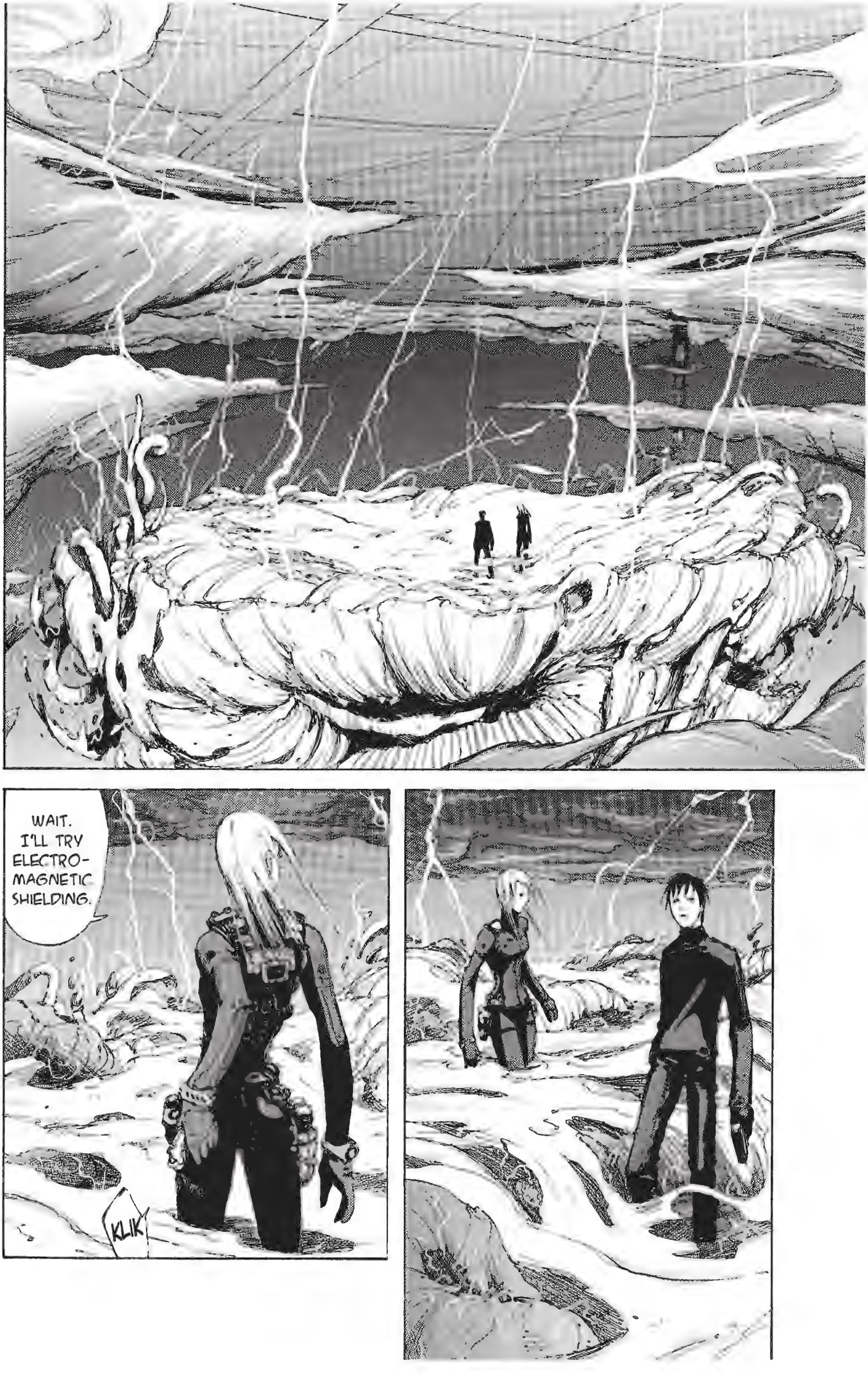

ゴオ
ROOAAR
ZLAASH
KSHAK

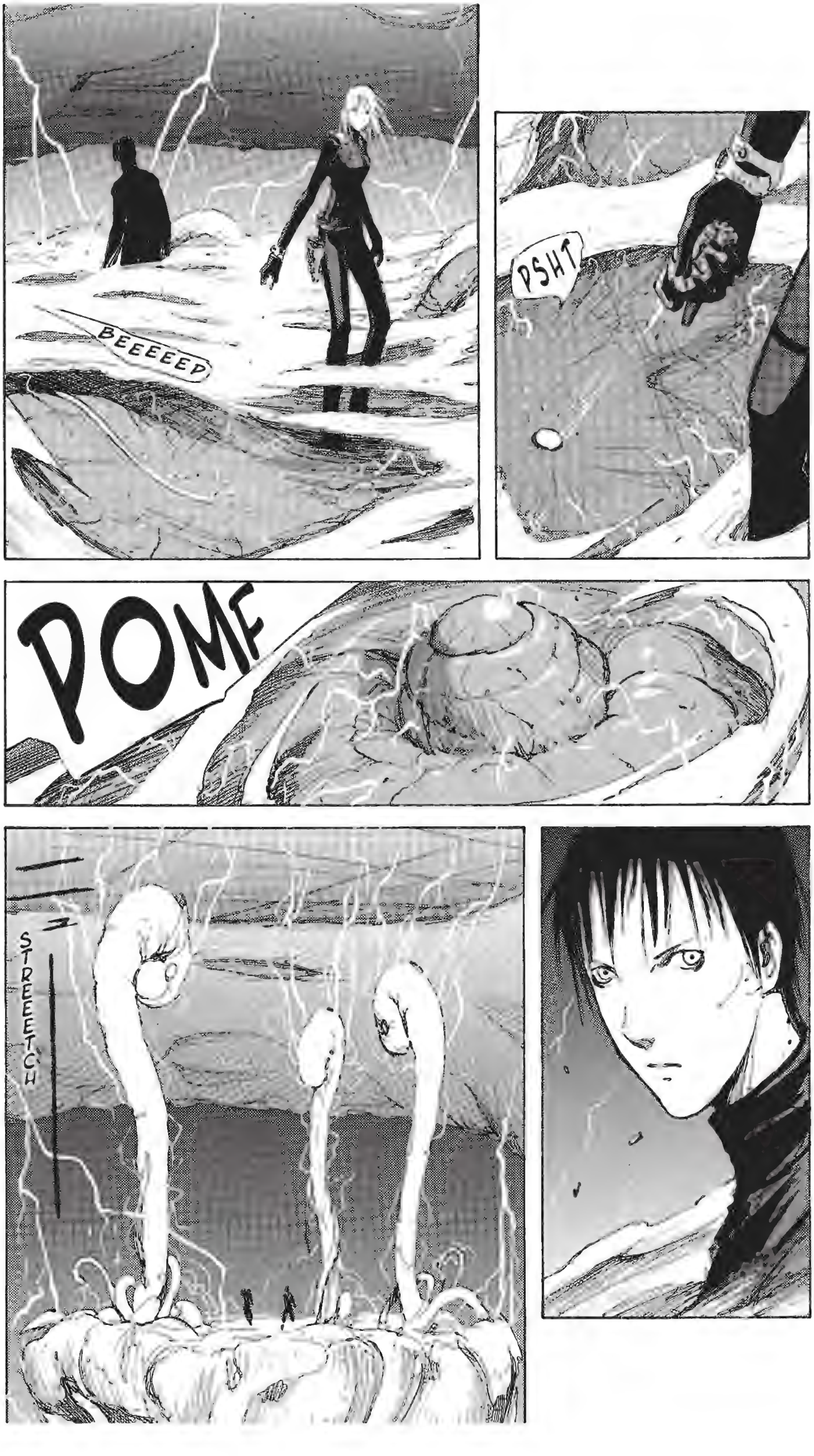

RRRRUMBLE
ZHOOM

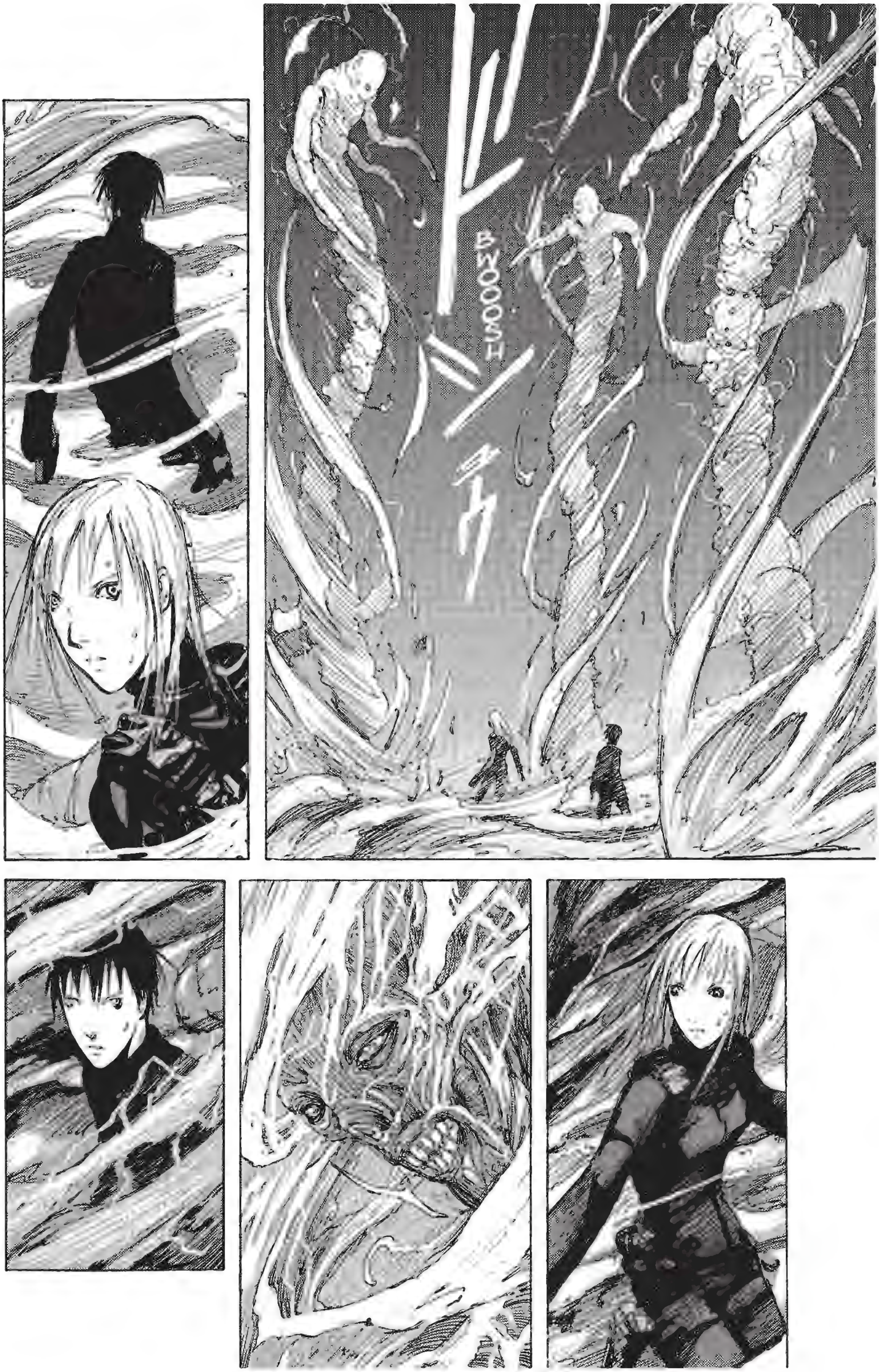

ドシャ
SPLATCH
KA
バラッ
GAPE
ギル
GLOOP

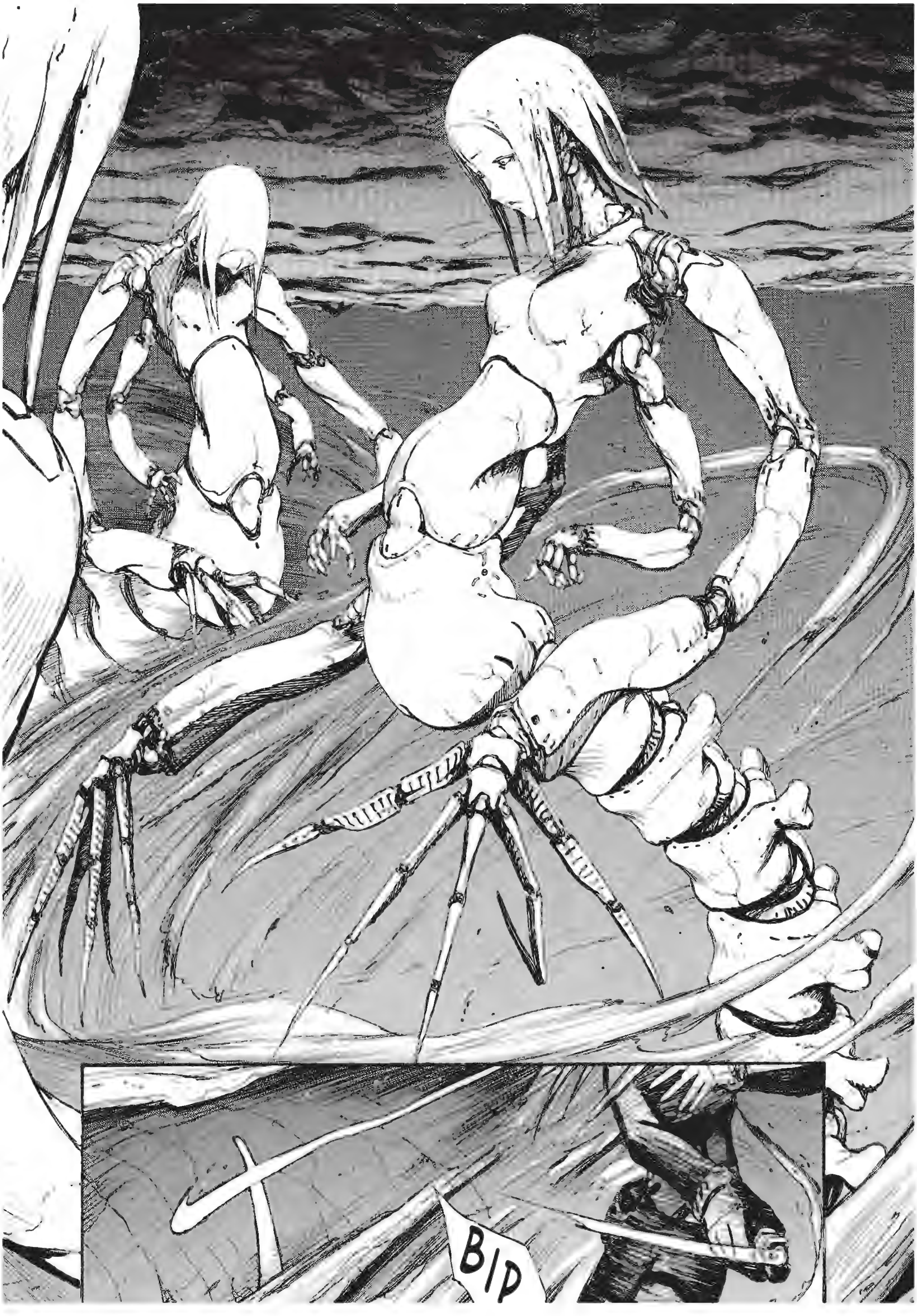

I HAVE IMPLANTS THAT CAN SENSE ALL KINDS OF ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ACTIVITY.
AND RIGHT NOW, ELECTRIC IMPULSES CARRYING ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF INFORMATION ARE BEING SENT TO THIS TOWER.
I DON'T THINK THE NEXT PACKET WILL BE LOCALIZED LIKE THE LAST ONE.
oooo
oooo

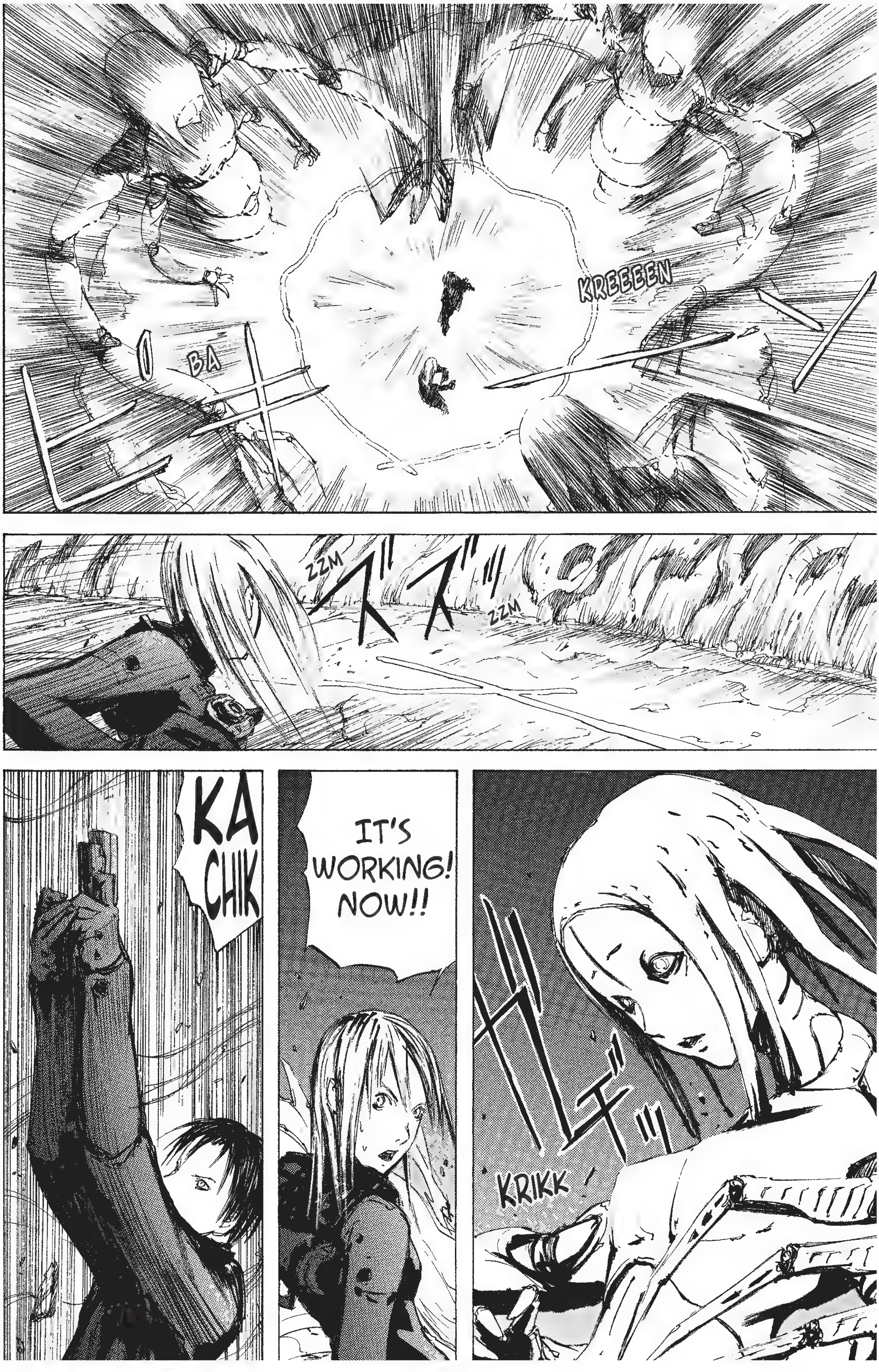


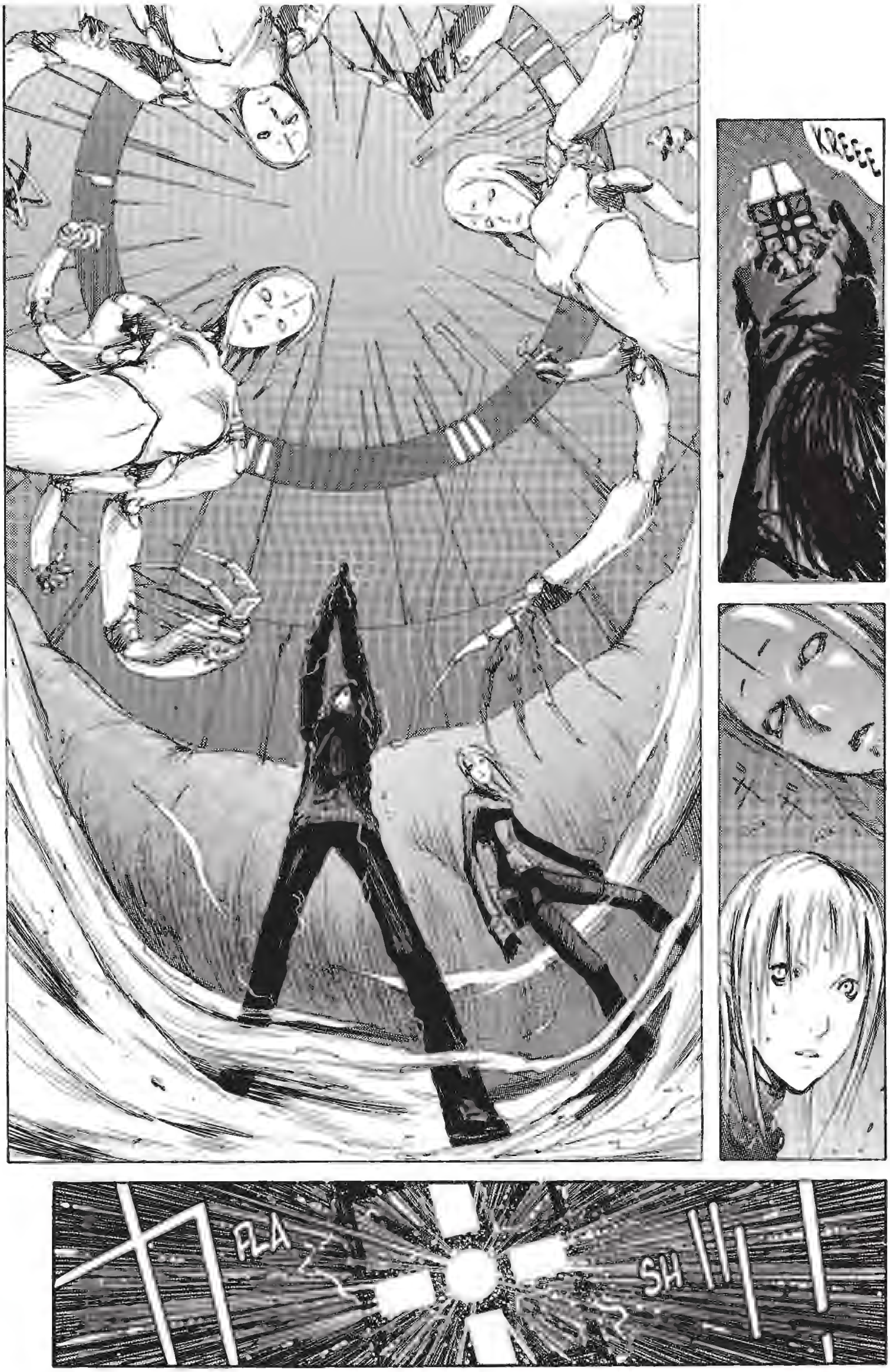

WAIT. I'LL TRY ELECTRO-MAGNETIC SHIELDING.
KLIK

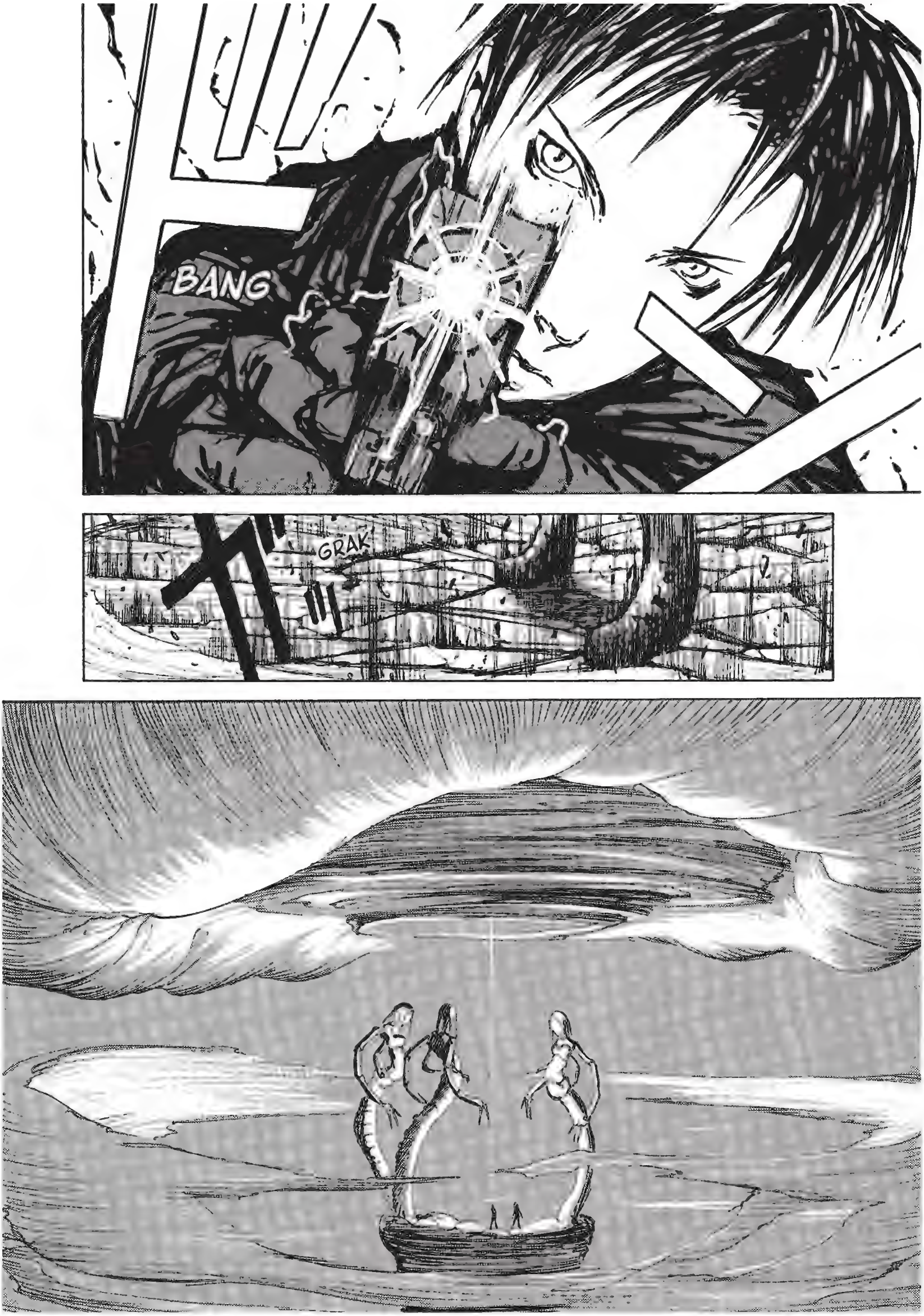

PSHT
BEEEEEP
POMF
STREEEETCH

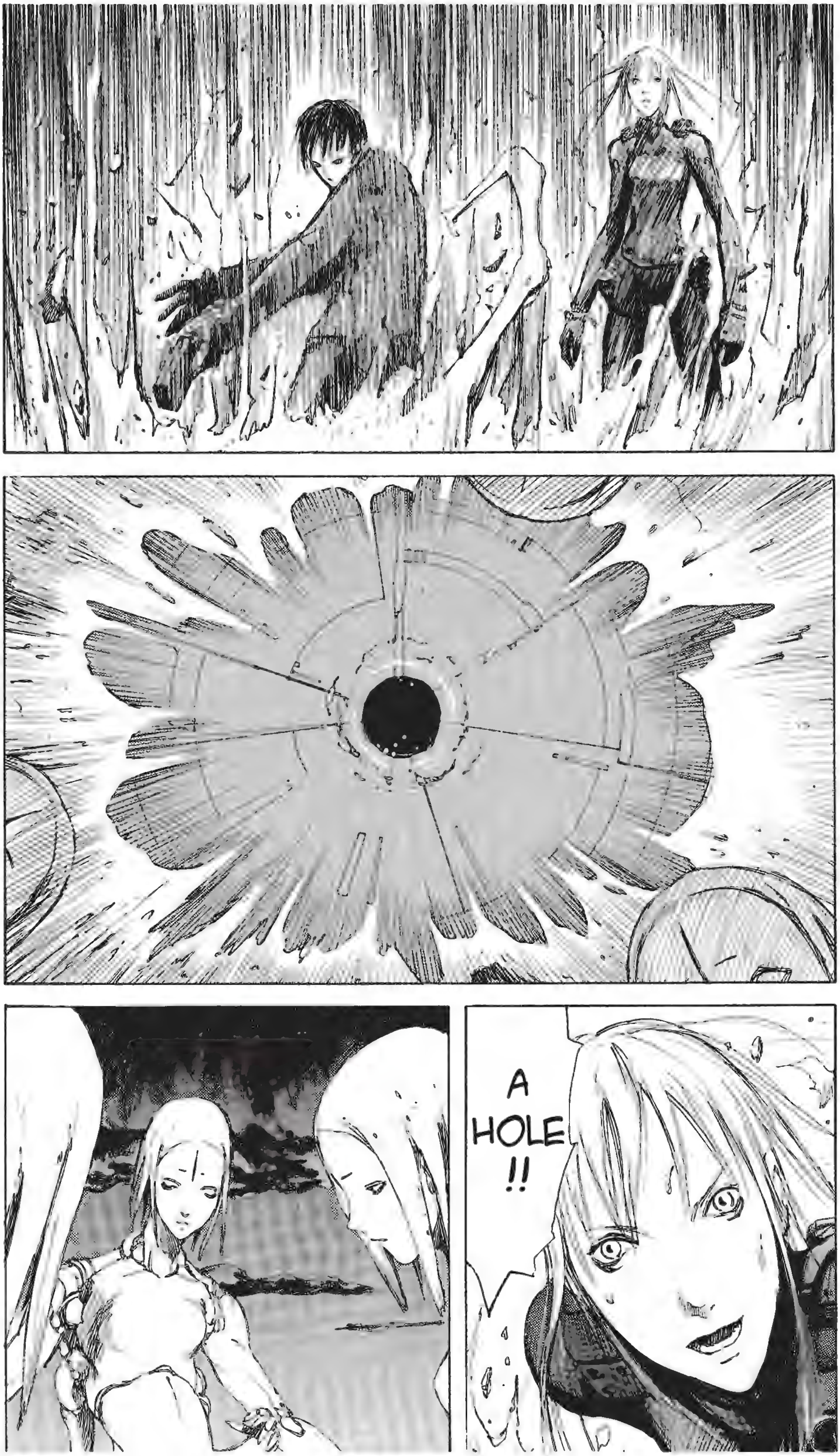

BWOOOSH

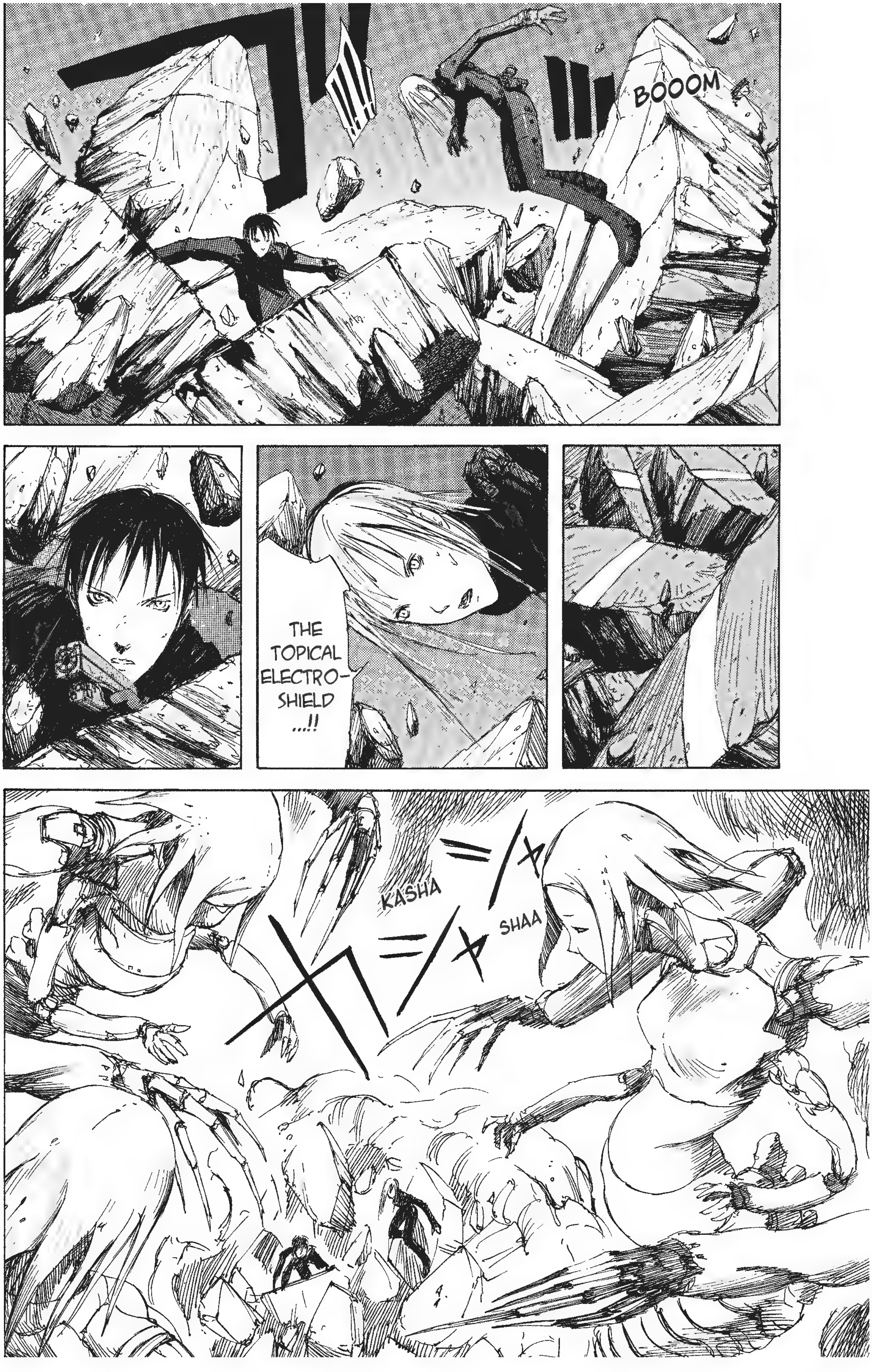

BIP

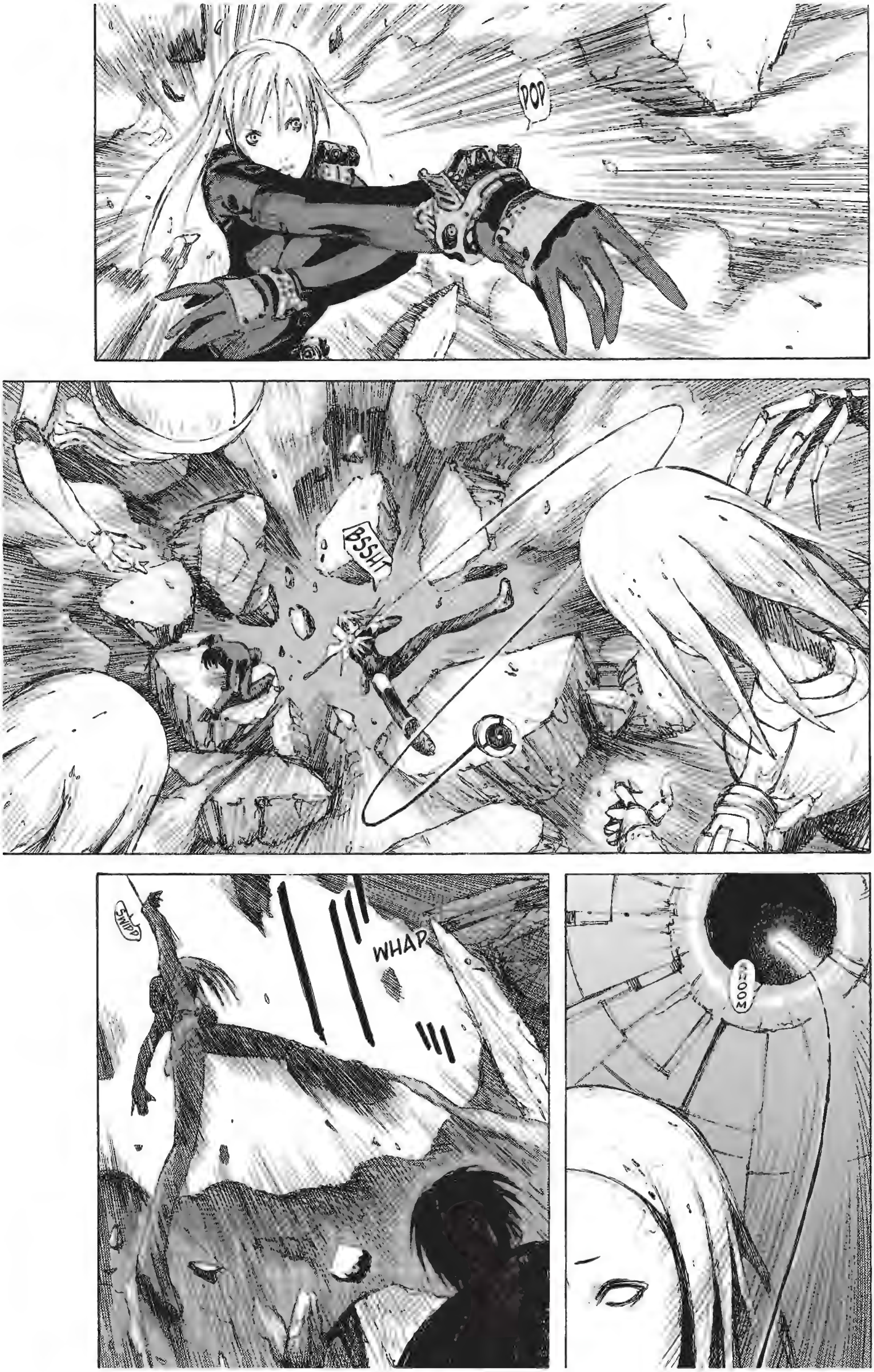

KREEEEN
BA
ZZM
ズ
ズ
ZZM
ガギッ
KRIKK
IT'S WORKING! NOW!!
KA CHIK

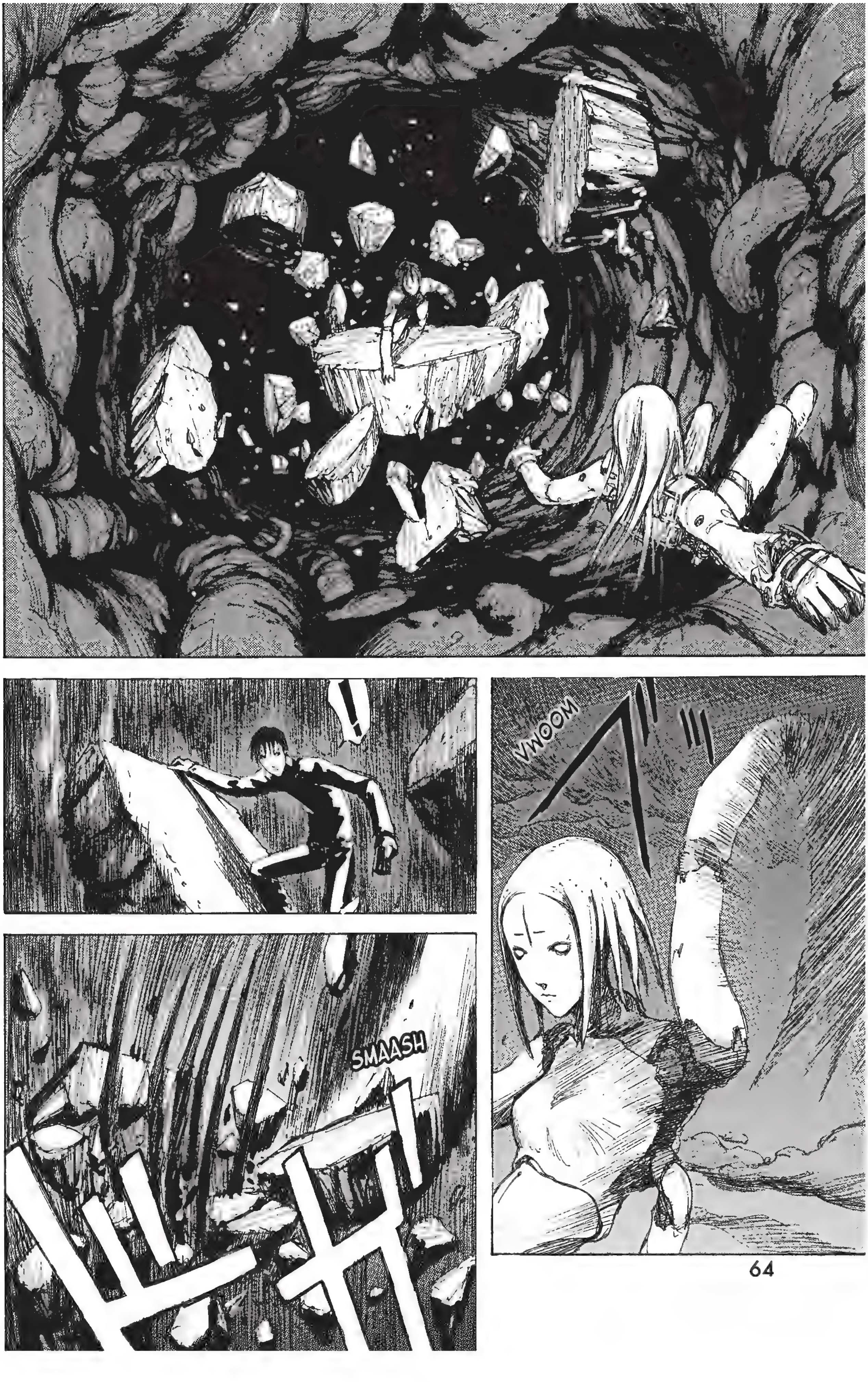

KREEEE
FLASH

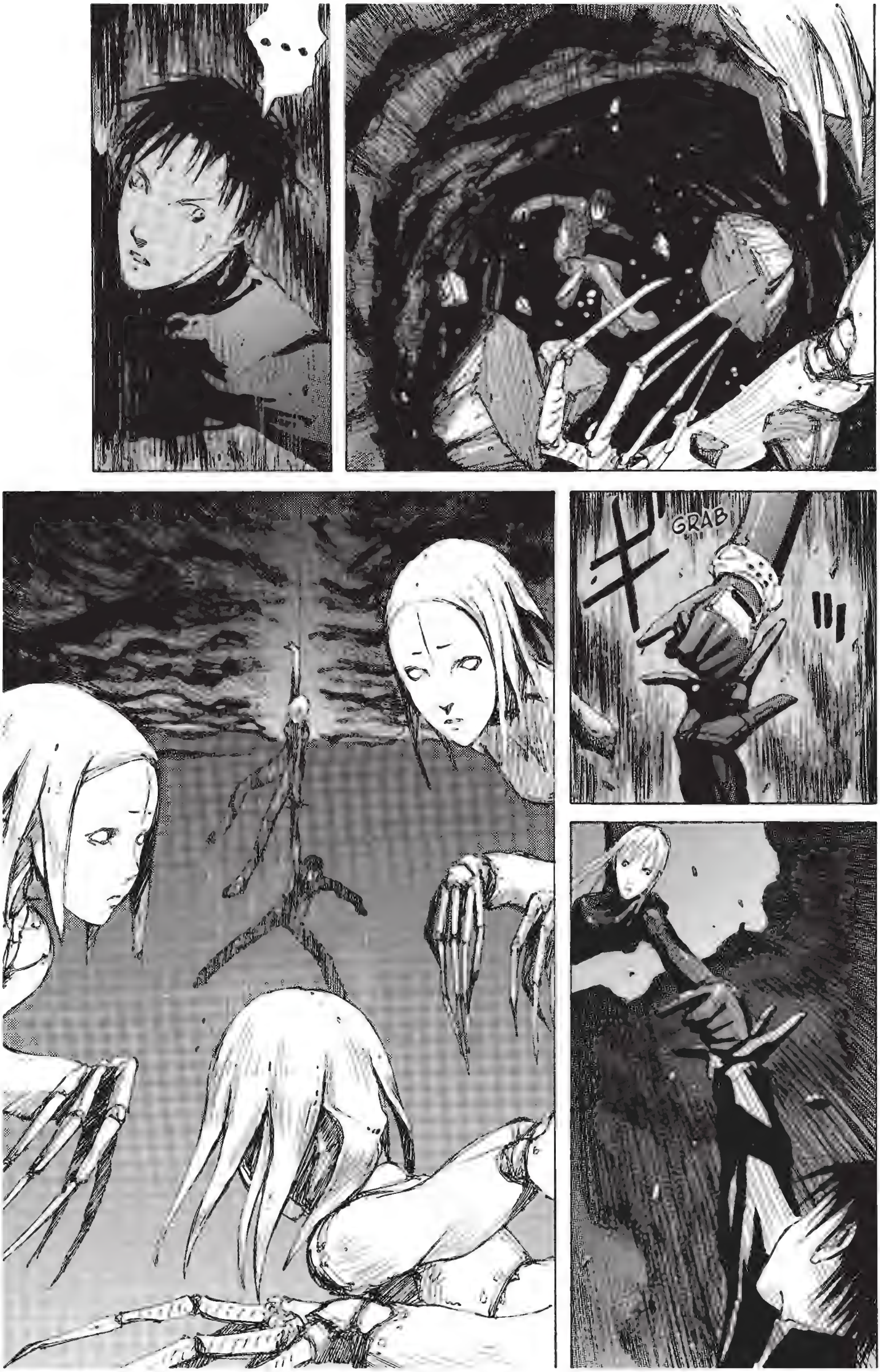

BANG
GRAK

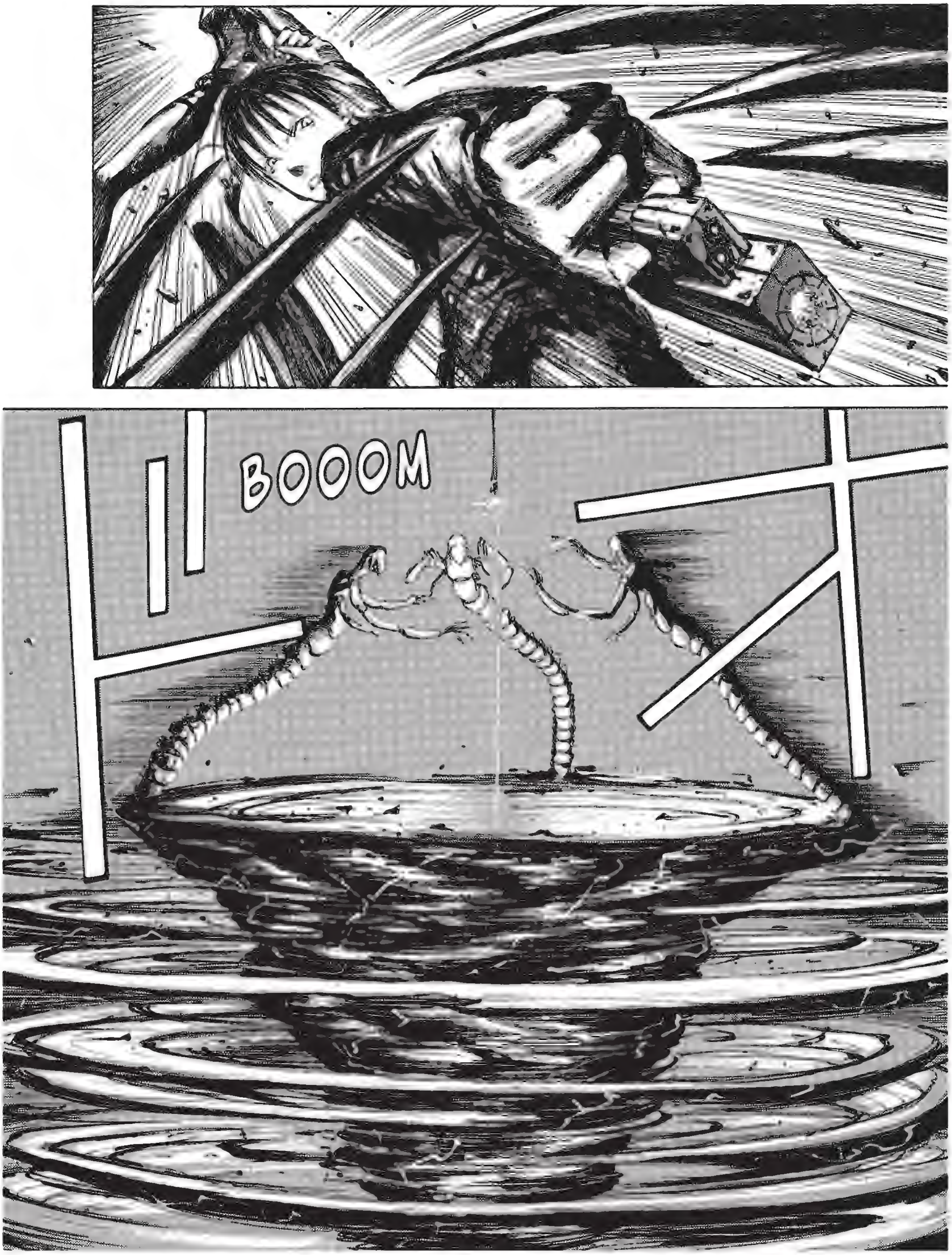

A HOLE !!

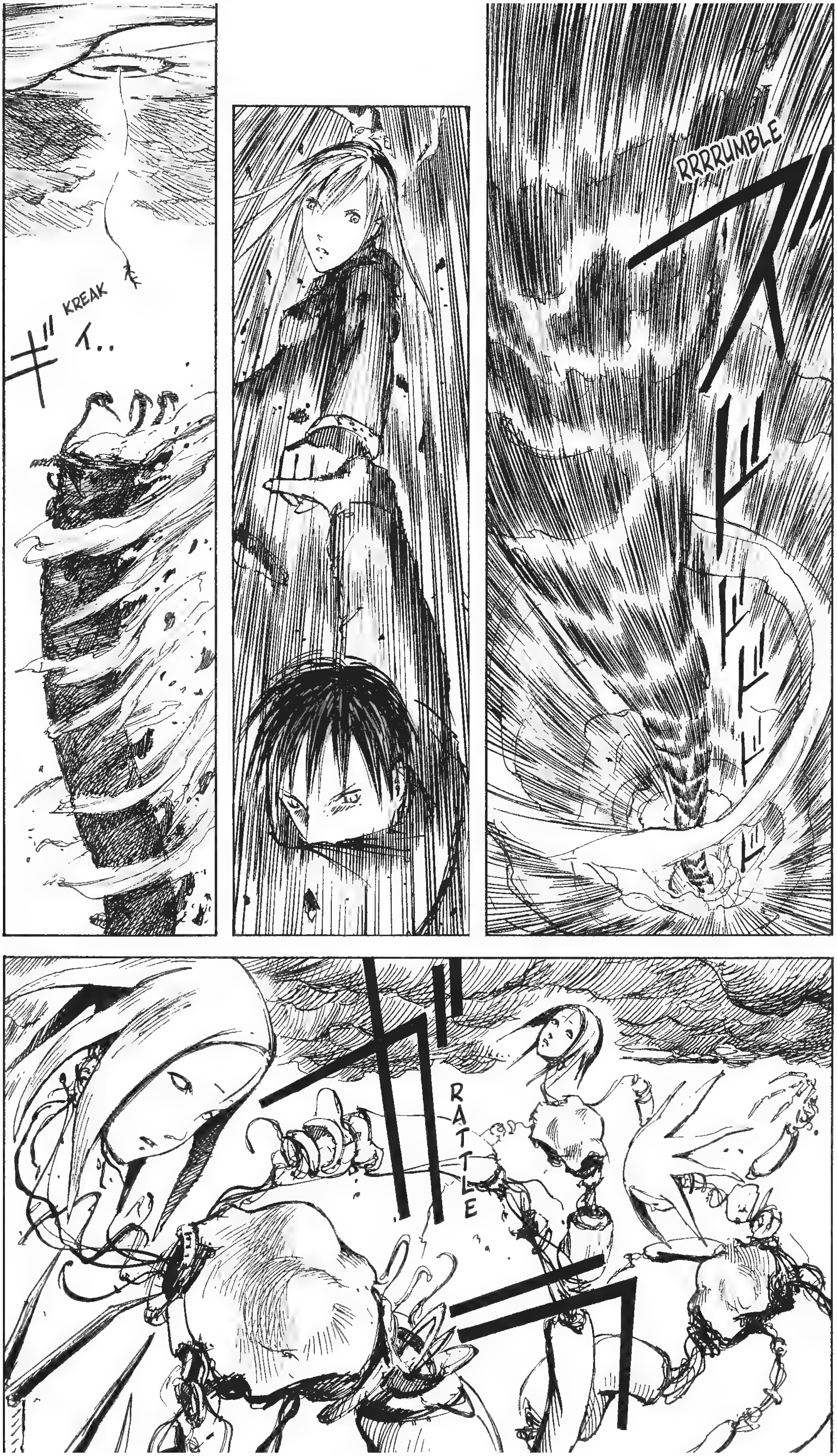

BOOOM
THE TOPICAL ELECTRO-SHIELD ...!!
KASHA
SHAA

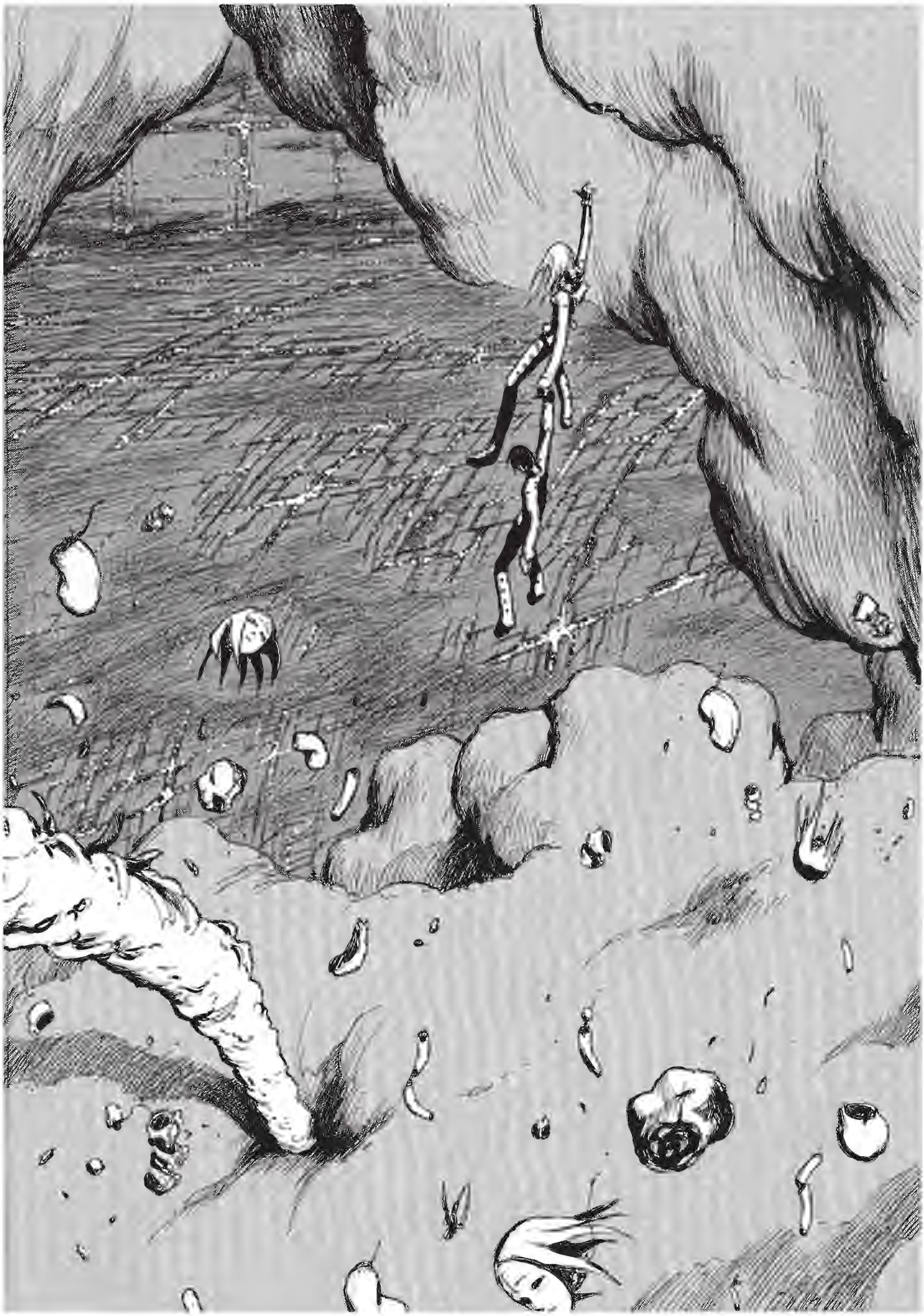

DOP
BSSHT
SHOOM
WHAP
SWIPP

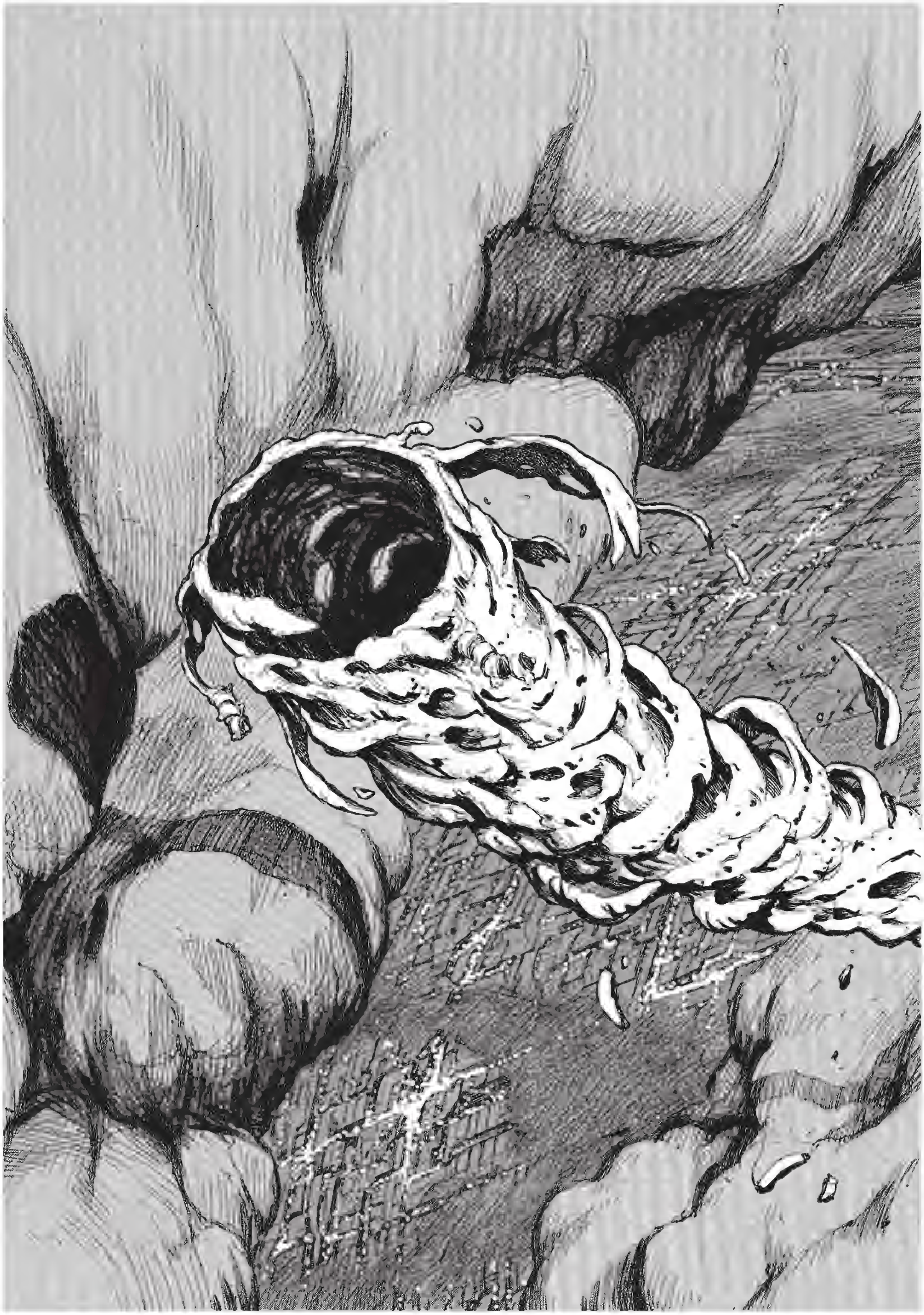

VWOOM
!
SMAASH

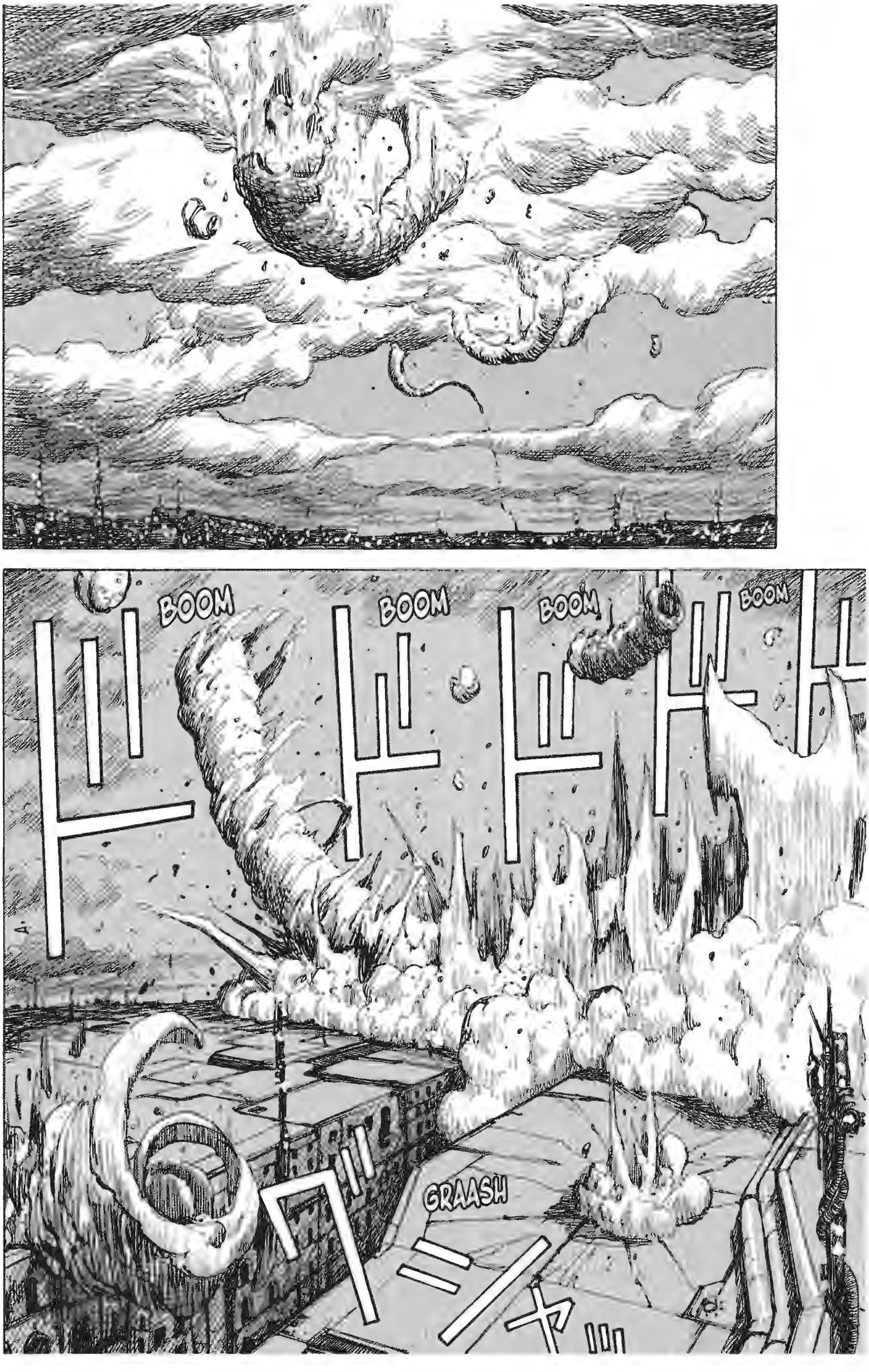

...
GRAB

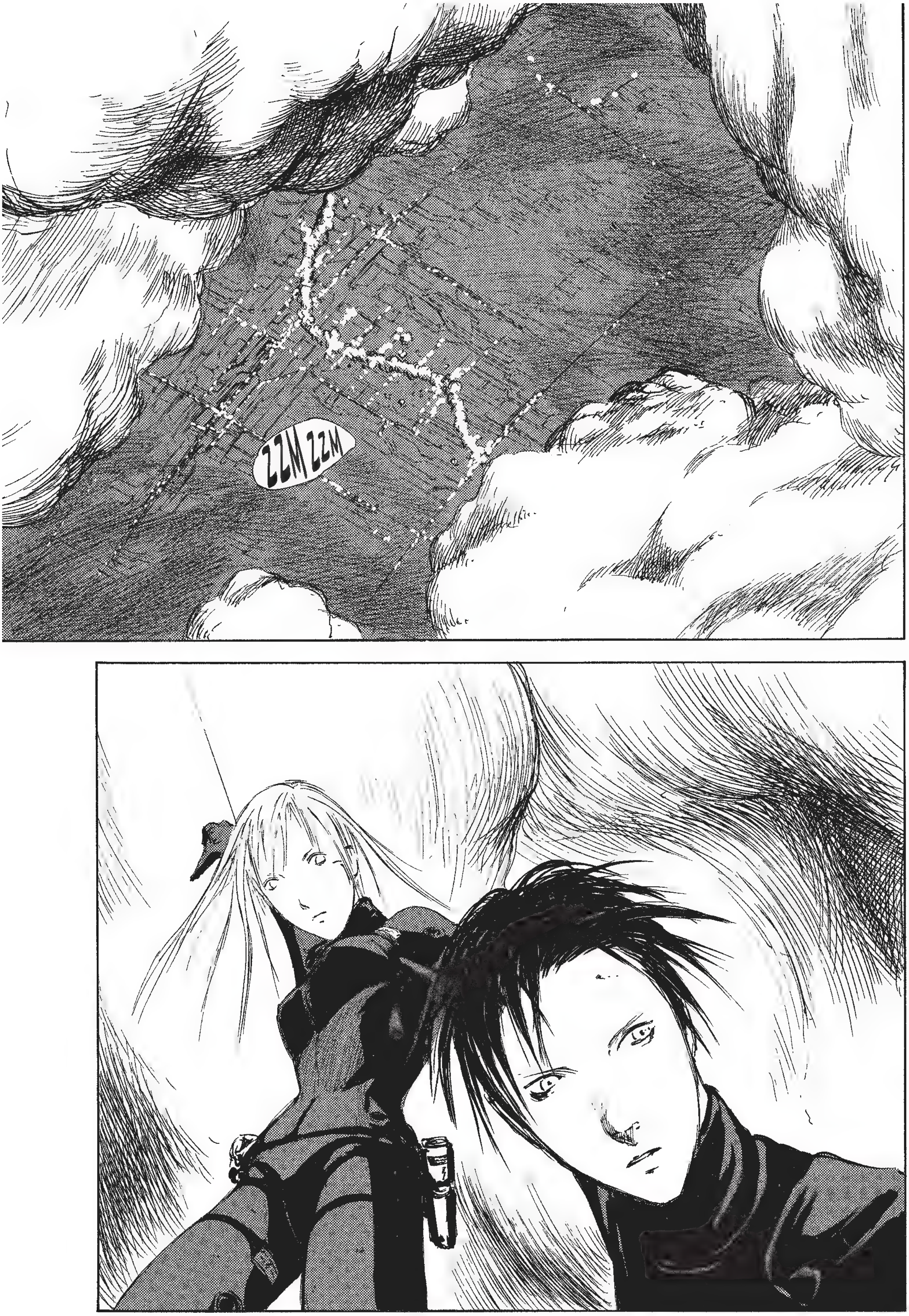

BOOOM

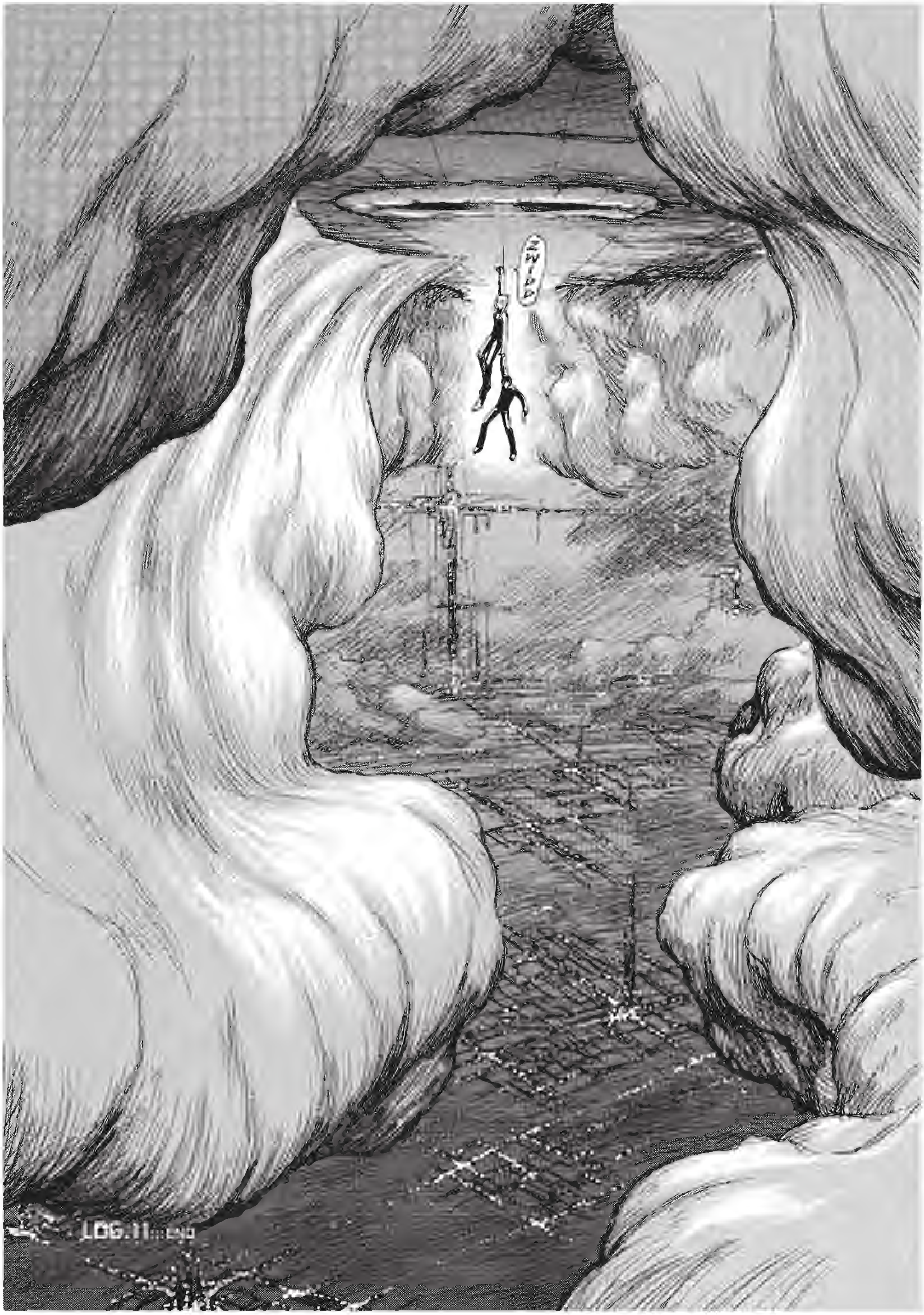

RRRRUMBLE
ズドドドドド
KREAK
ギイ..
RATTLE

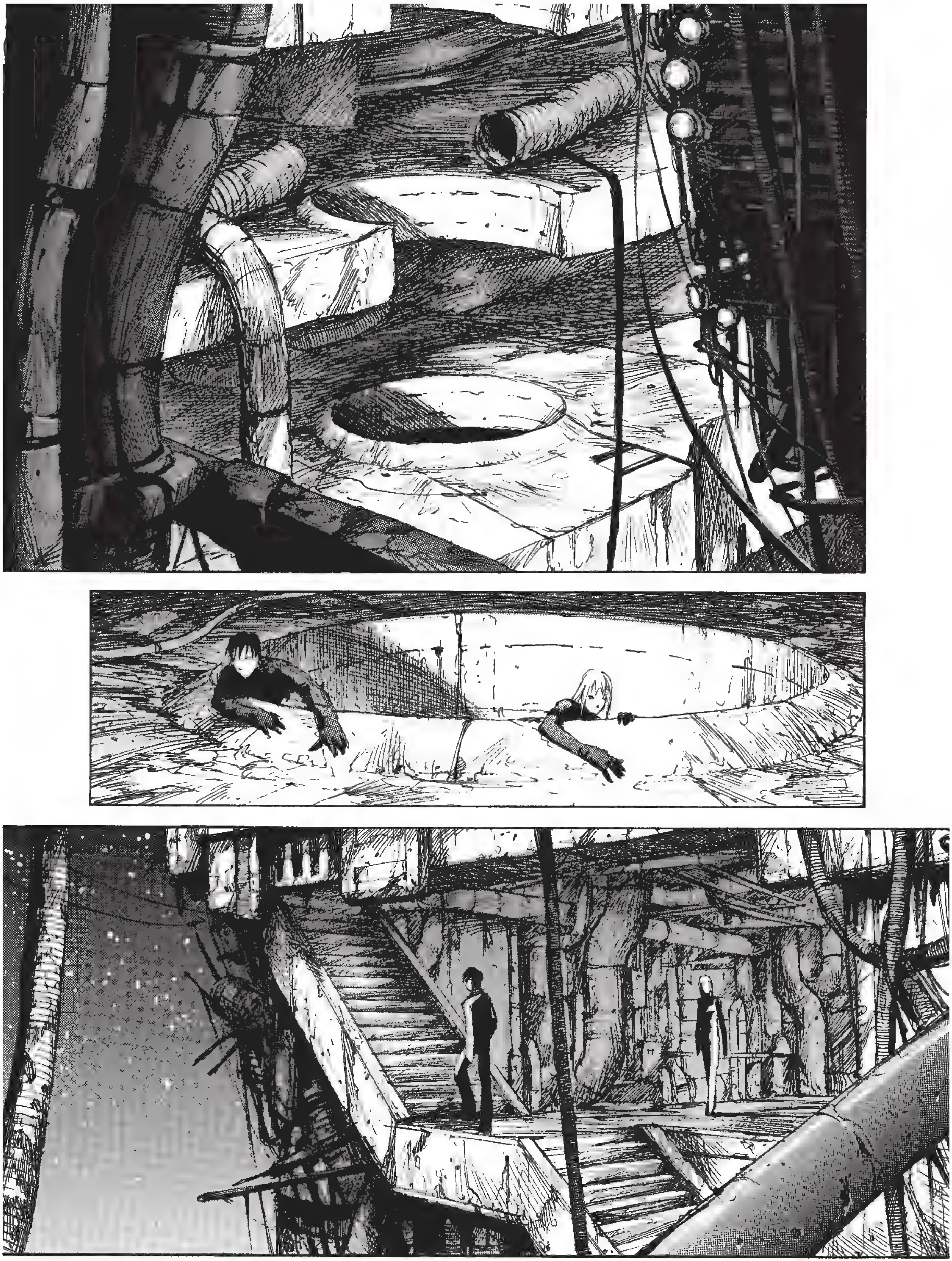


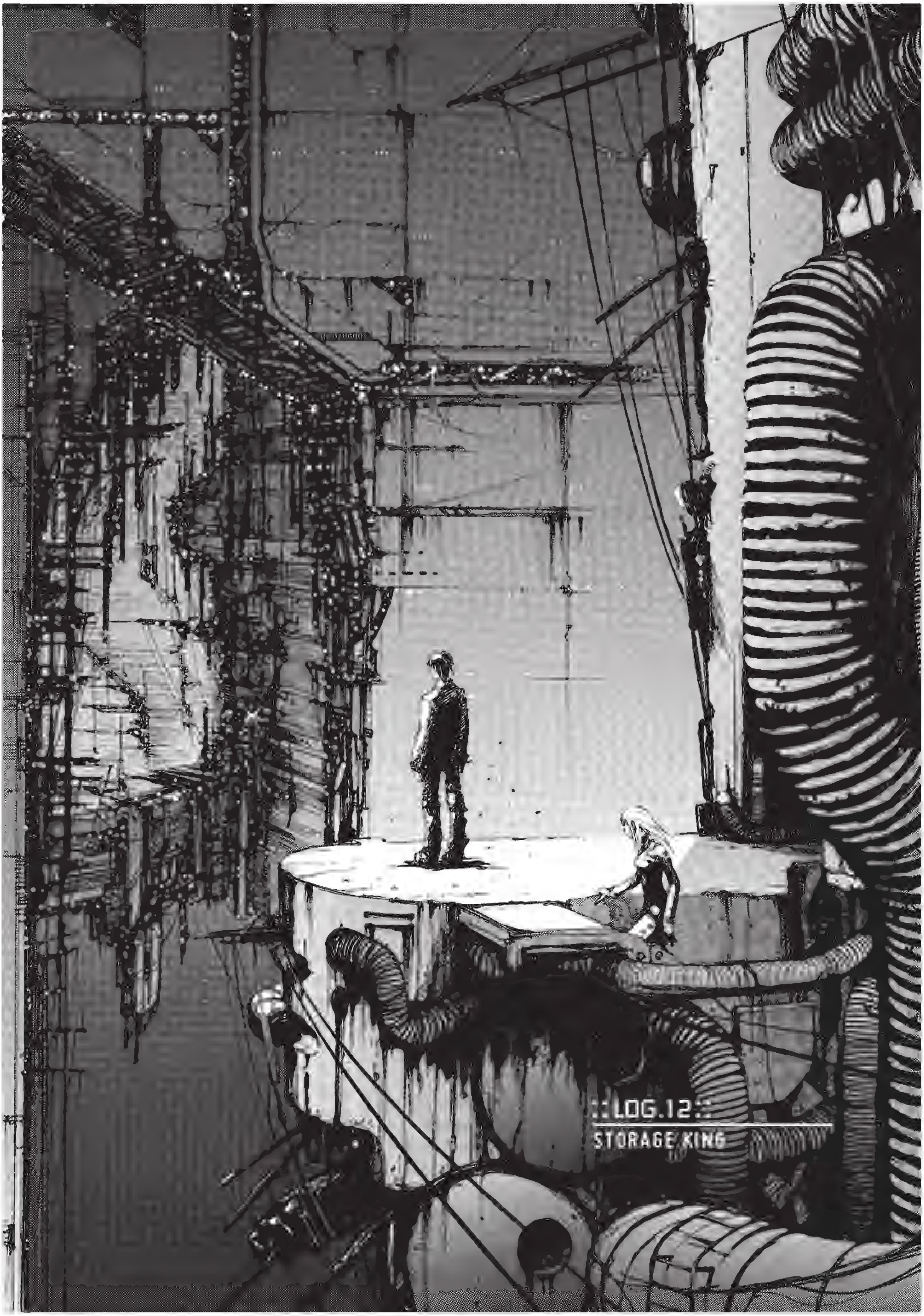



BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
ドドドドド
GRAASH
グシャッ


ZZM ZZM

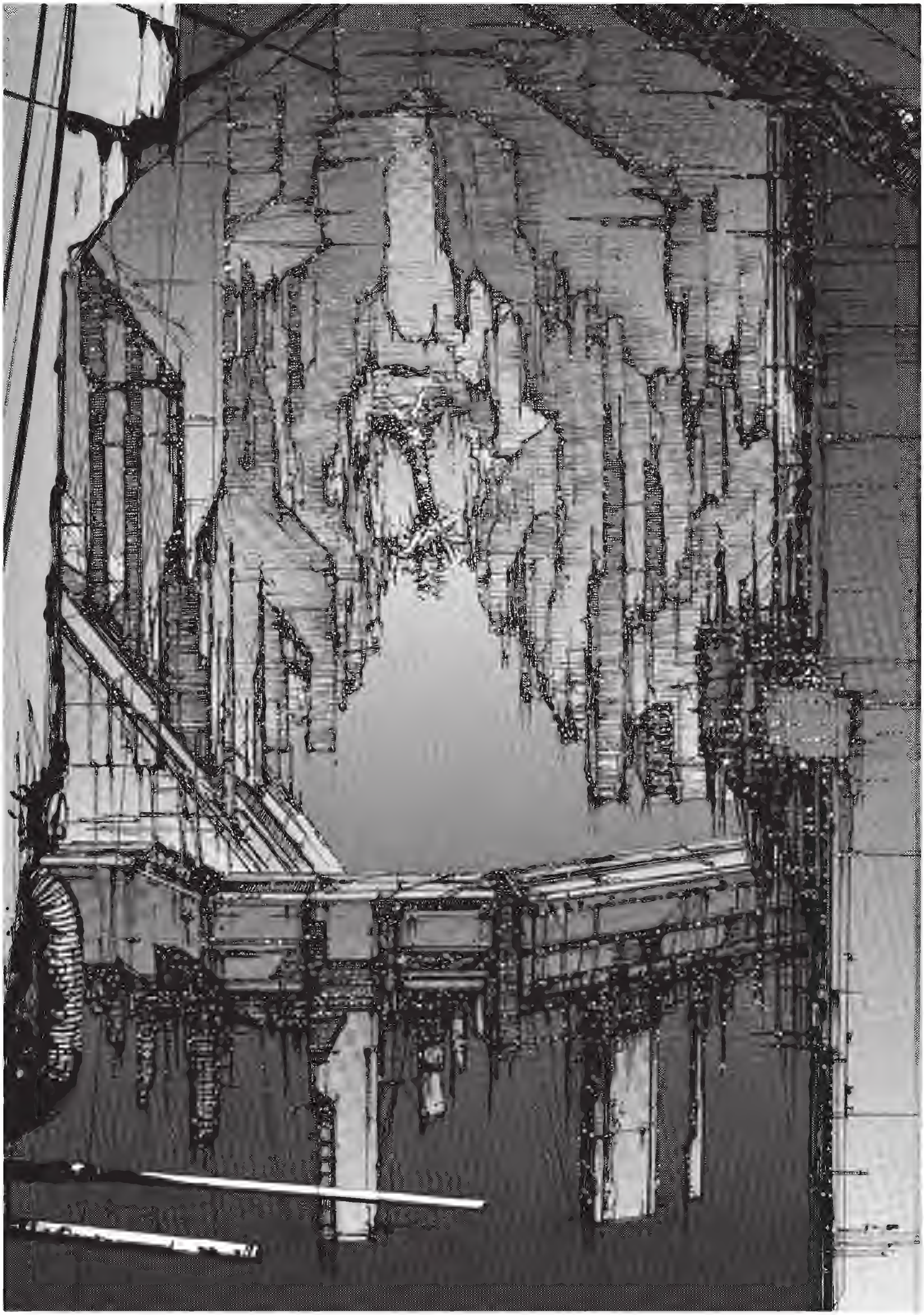

ZWIPP
LOG.11::END

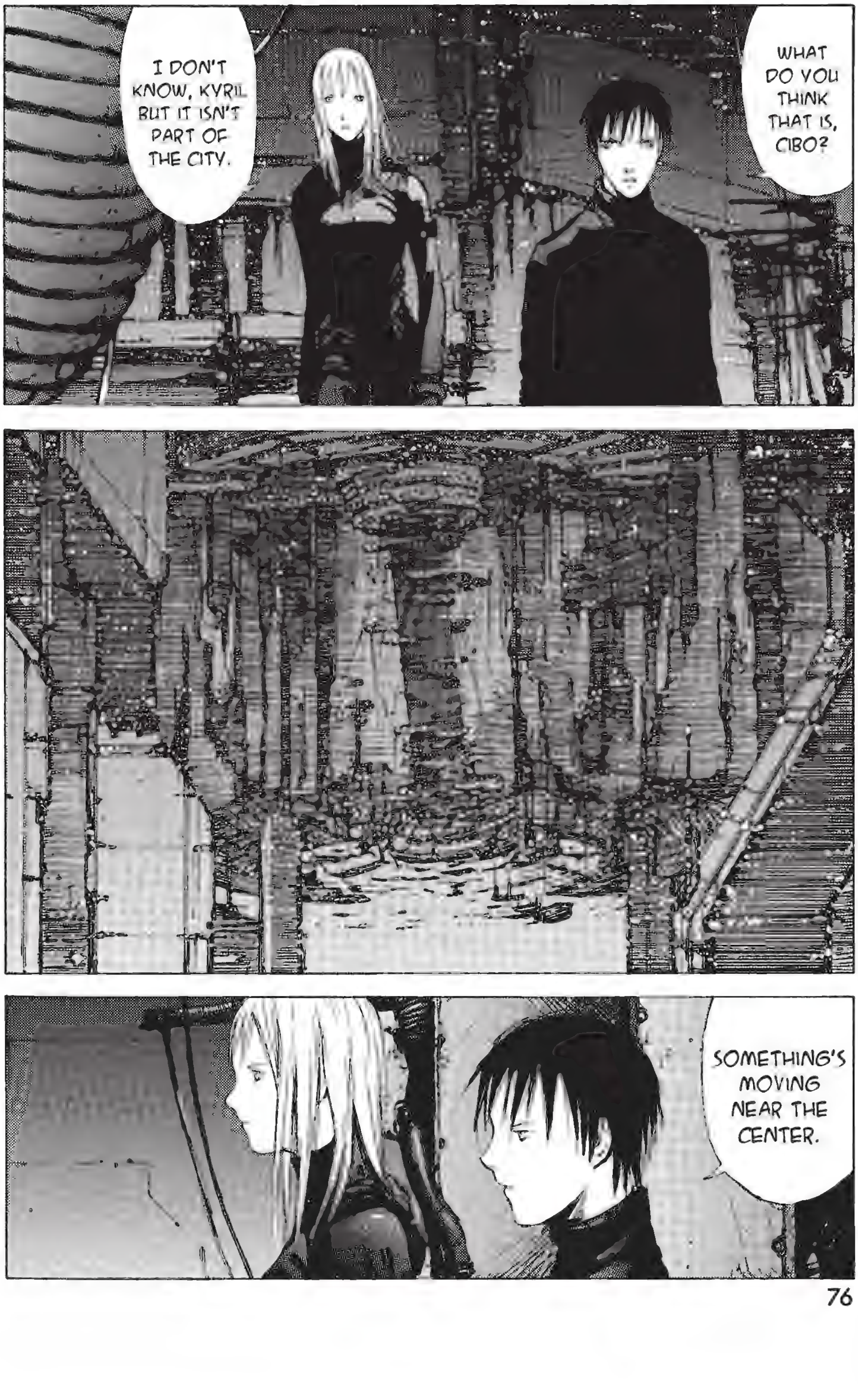


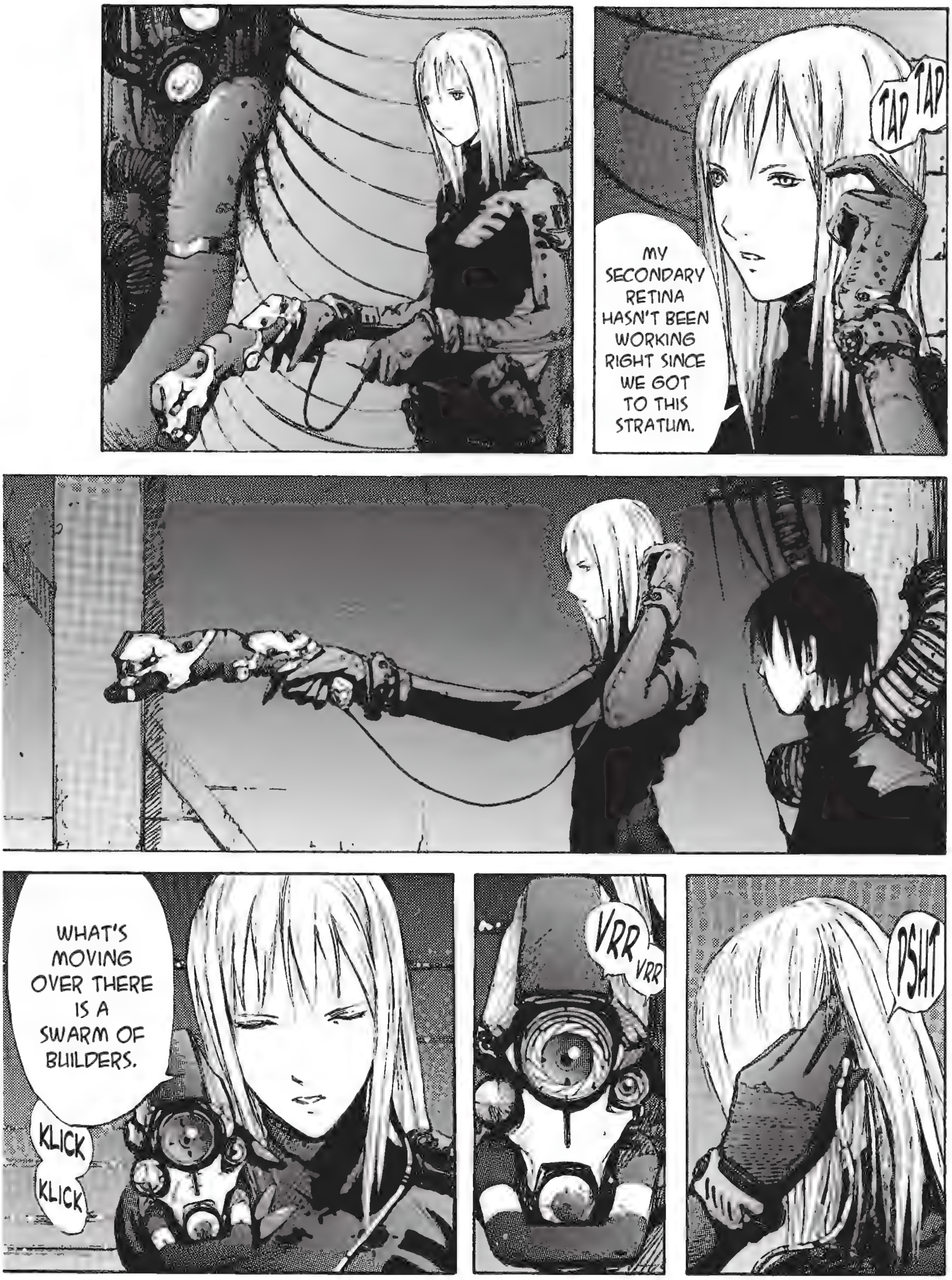


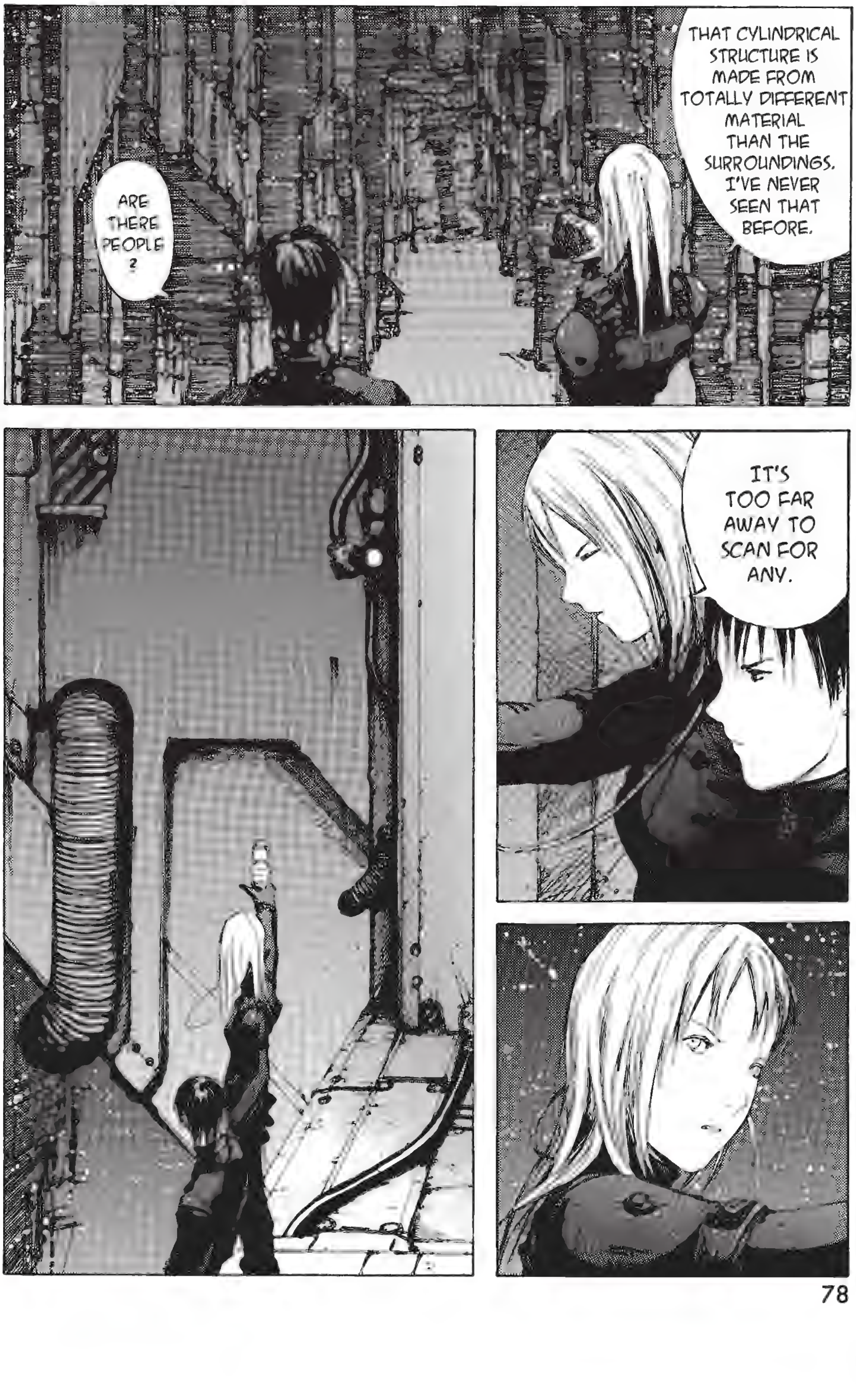
::LOG.12::

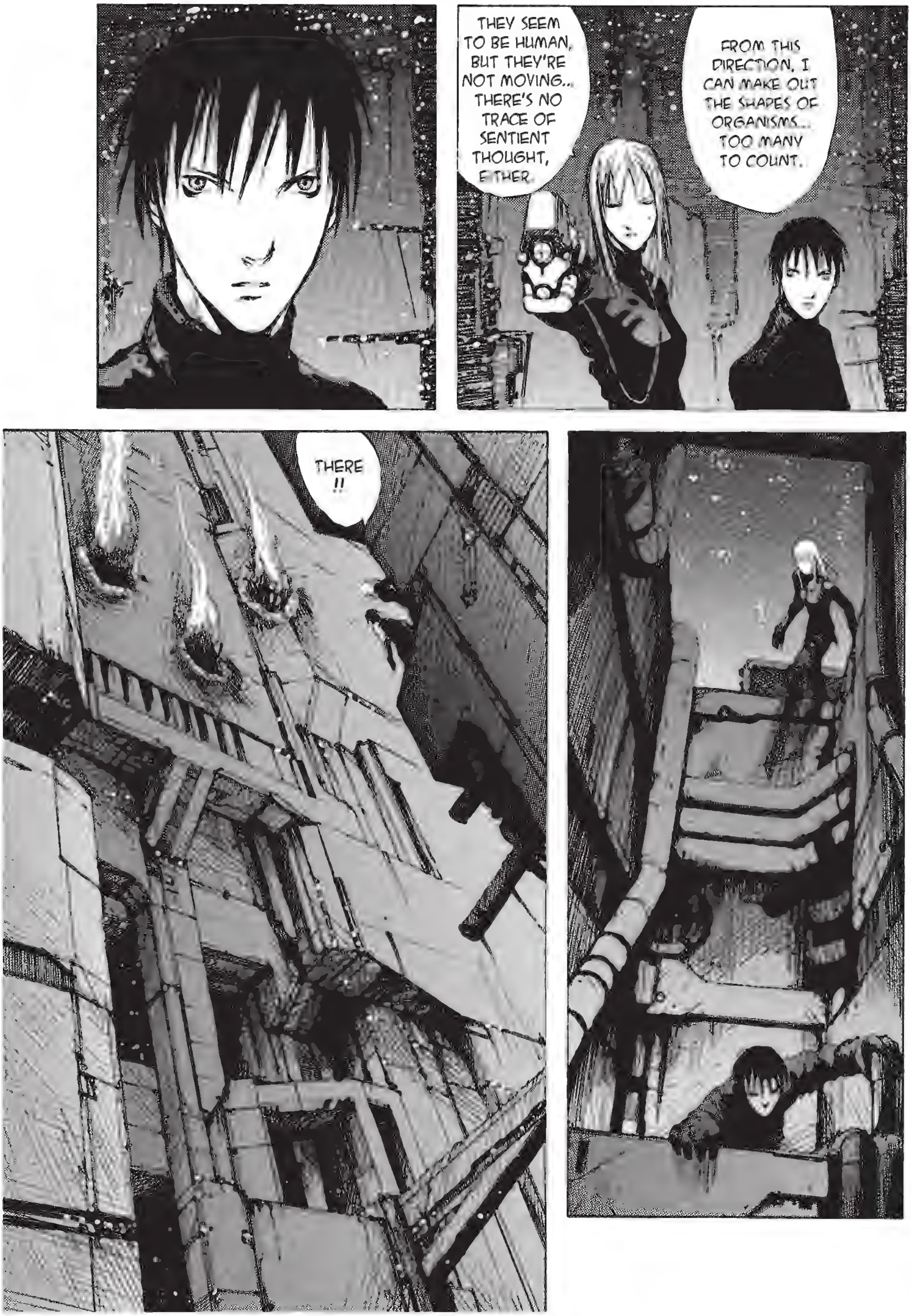
STORAGE KING

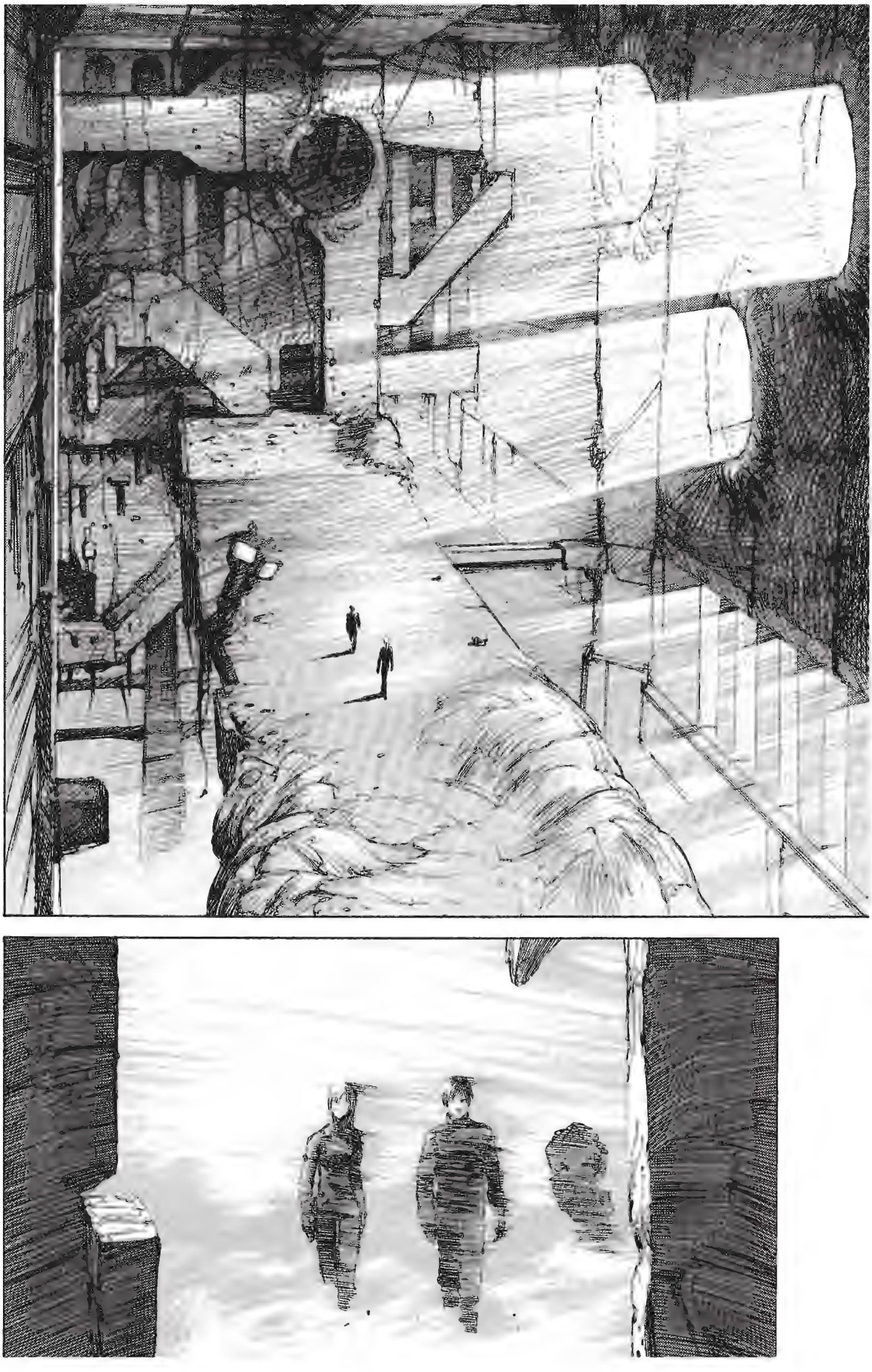


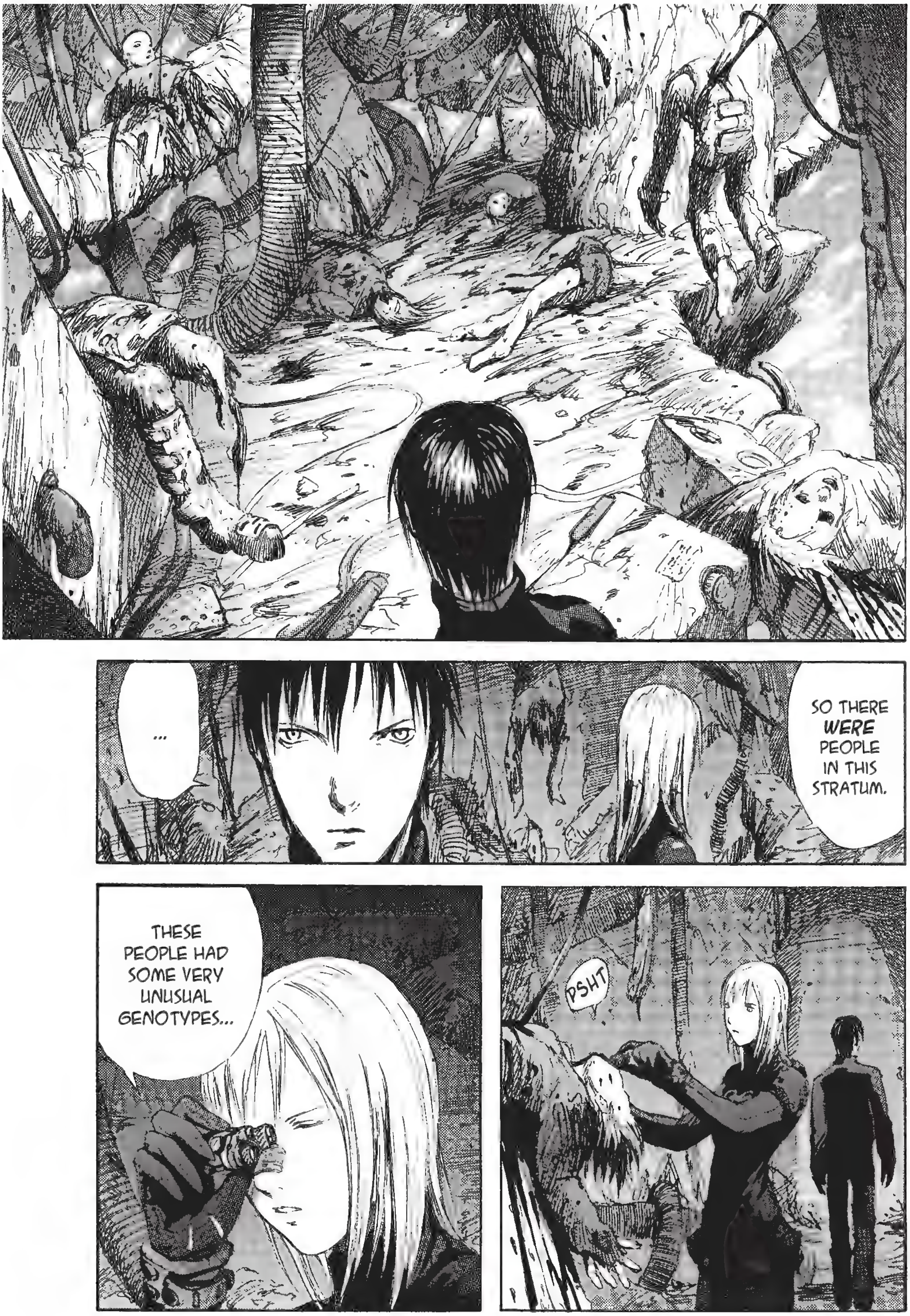

WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT IS, CIBO?
I DON'T KNOW, KYRIL BUT IT ISN'T PART OF THE CITY.
SOMETHING'S MOVING NEAR THE CENTER.

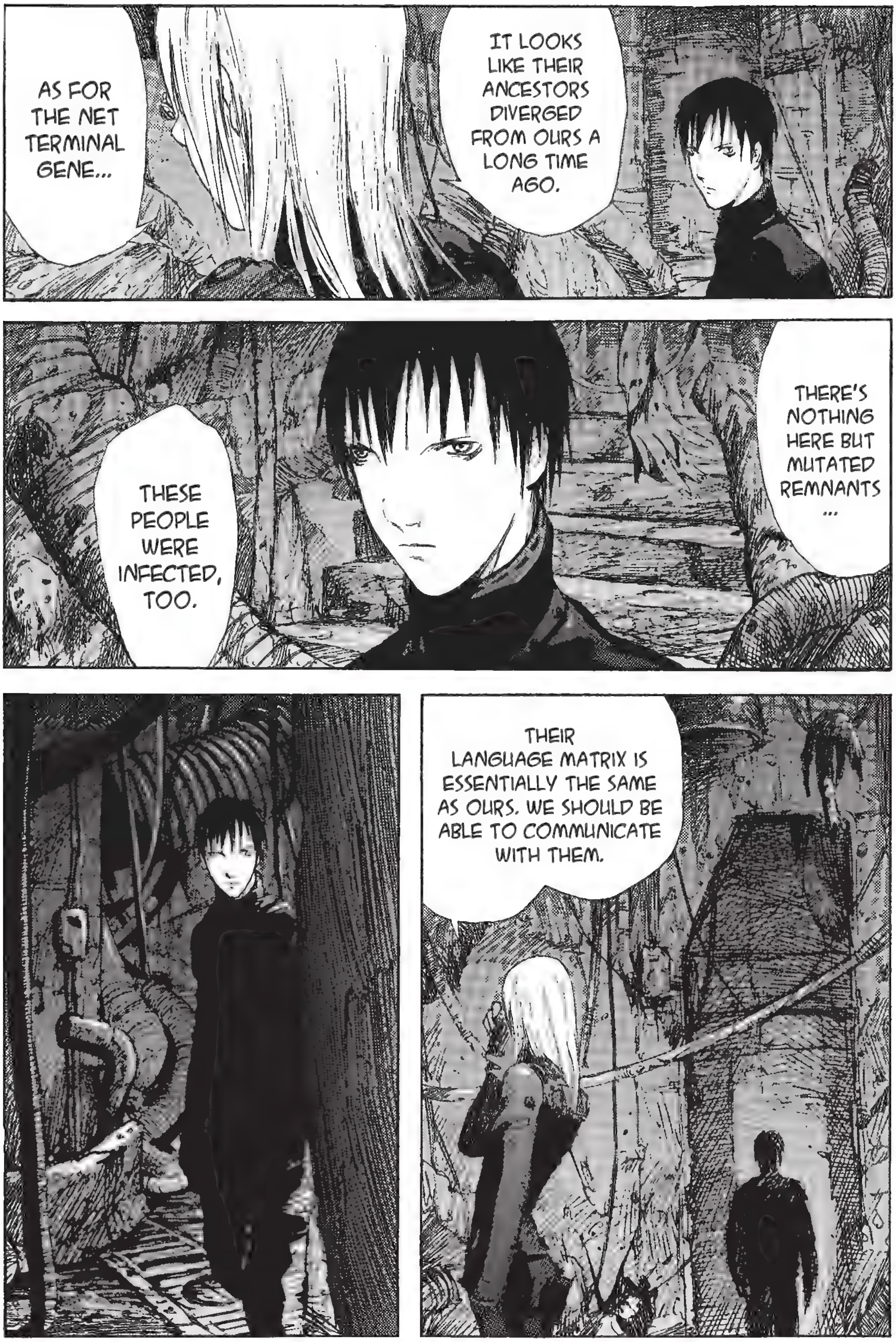

TAP TAP
MY SECONDARY RETINA HASN'T BEEN WORKING RIGHT SINCE WE GOT TO THIS STRATUM.
WHAT'S MOVING OVER THERE IS A SWARM OF BUILDERS.
KLICK KLICK
VRR VRR
PSHT

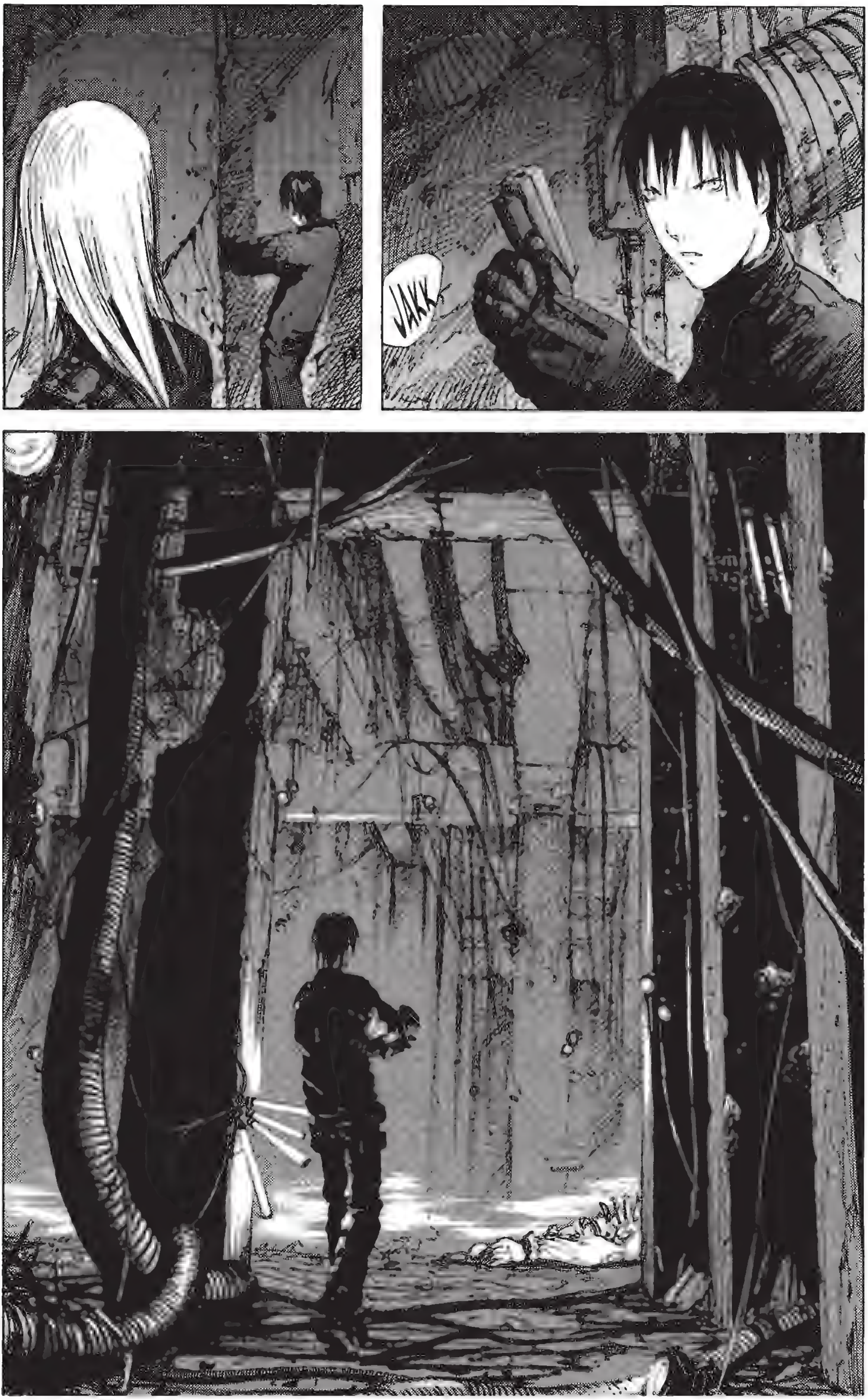

THAT CYLINDRICAL STRUCTURE IS MADE FROM TOTALLY DIFFERENT MATERIAL THAN THE SURROUNDINGS. I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE.
ARE THERE PEOPLE?
IT'S TOO FAR AWAY TO SCAN FOR ANY.

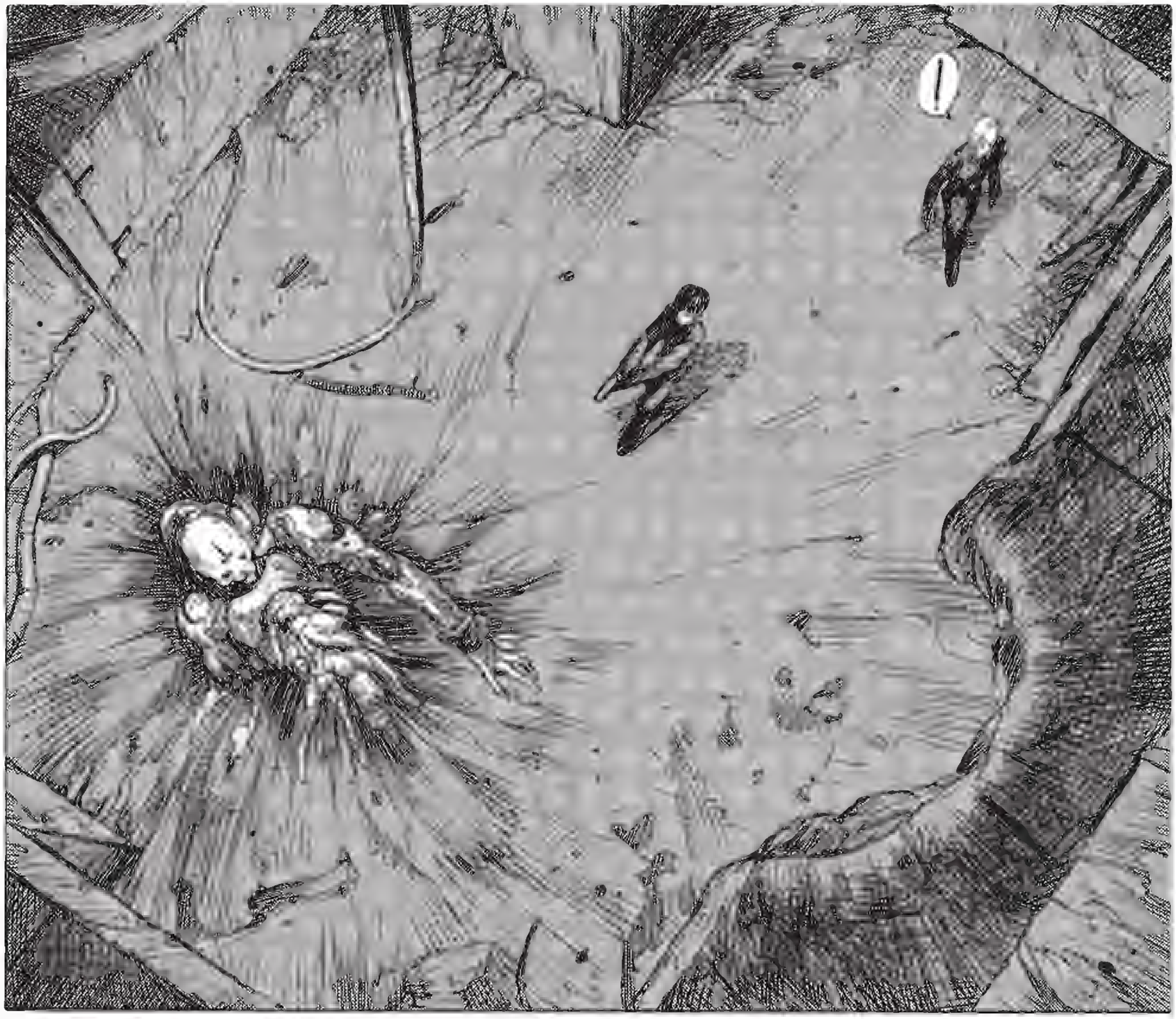

FROM THIS DIRECTION, I CAN MAKE OUT THE SHAPES OF ORGANISMS... TOO MANY TO COUNT.
THEY SEEM TO BE HUMAN, BUT THEY'RE NOT MOVING... THERE'S NO TRACE OF SENTIENT THOUGHT, EITHER.
THERE !!

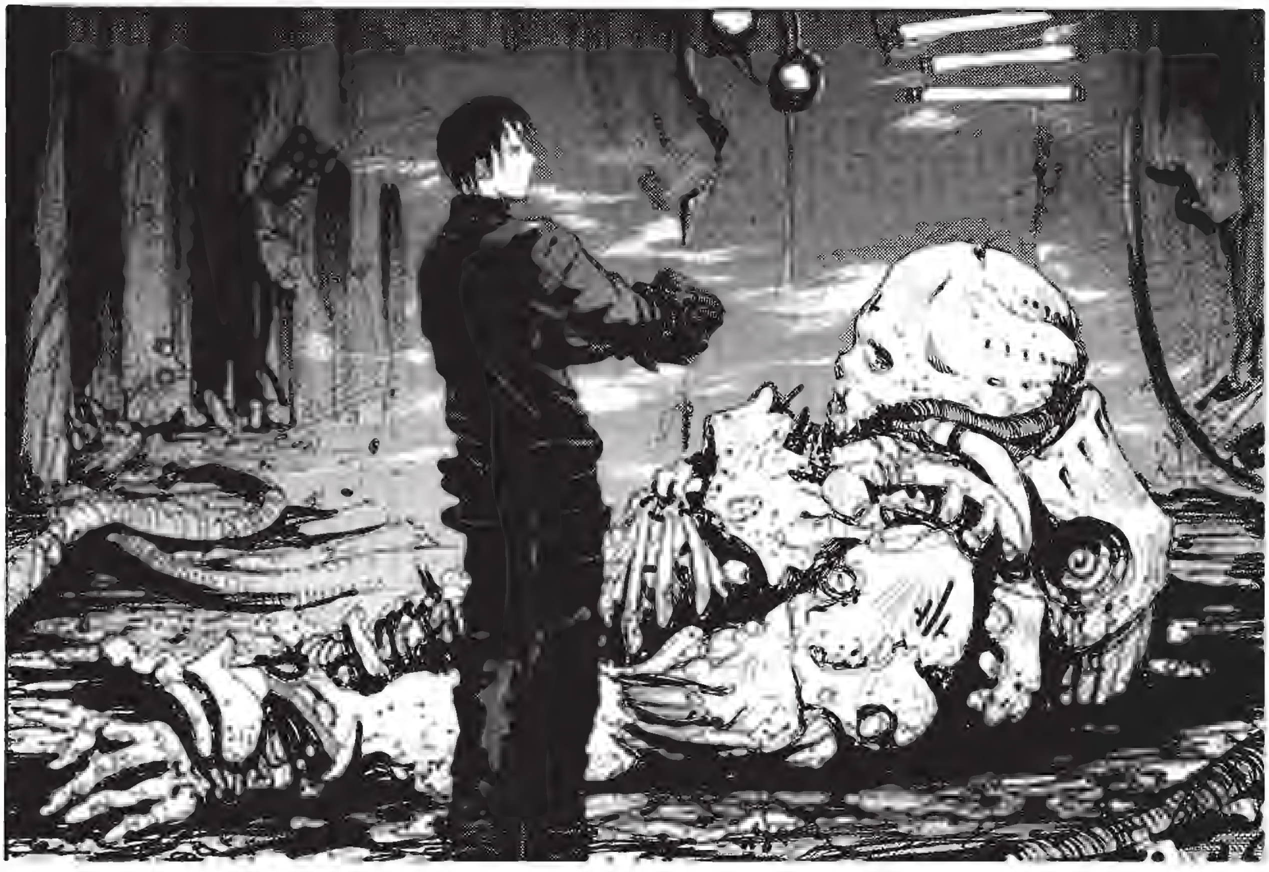


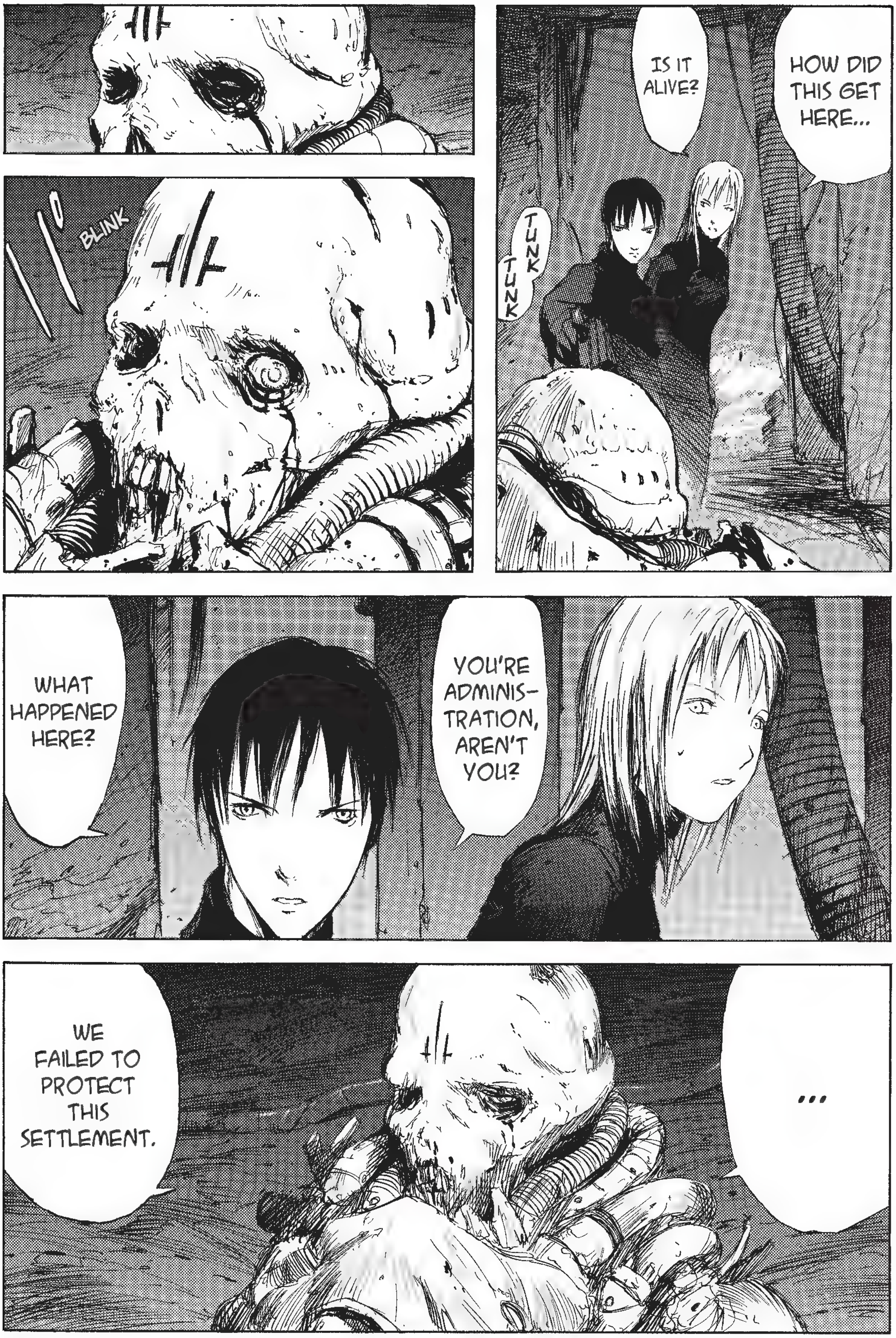

SO THERE **WERE** PEOPLE IN THIS STRATUM.
...
PSHT
THESE PEOPLE HAD SOME VERY UNUSUAL GENOTYPES...

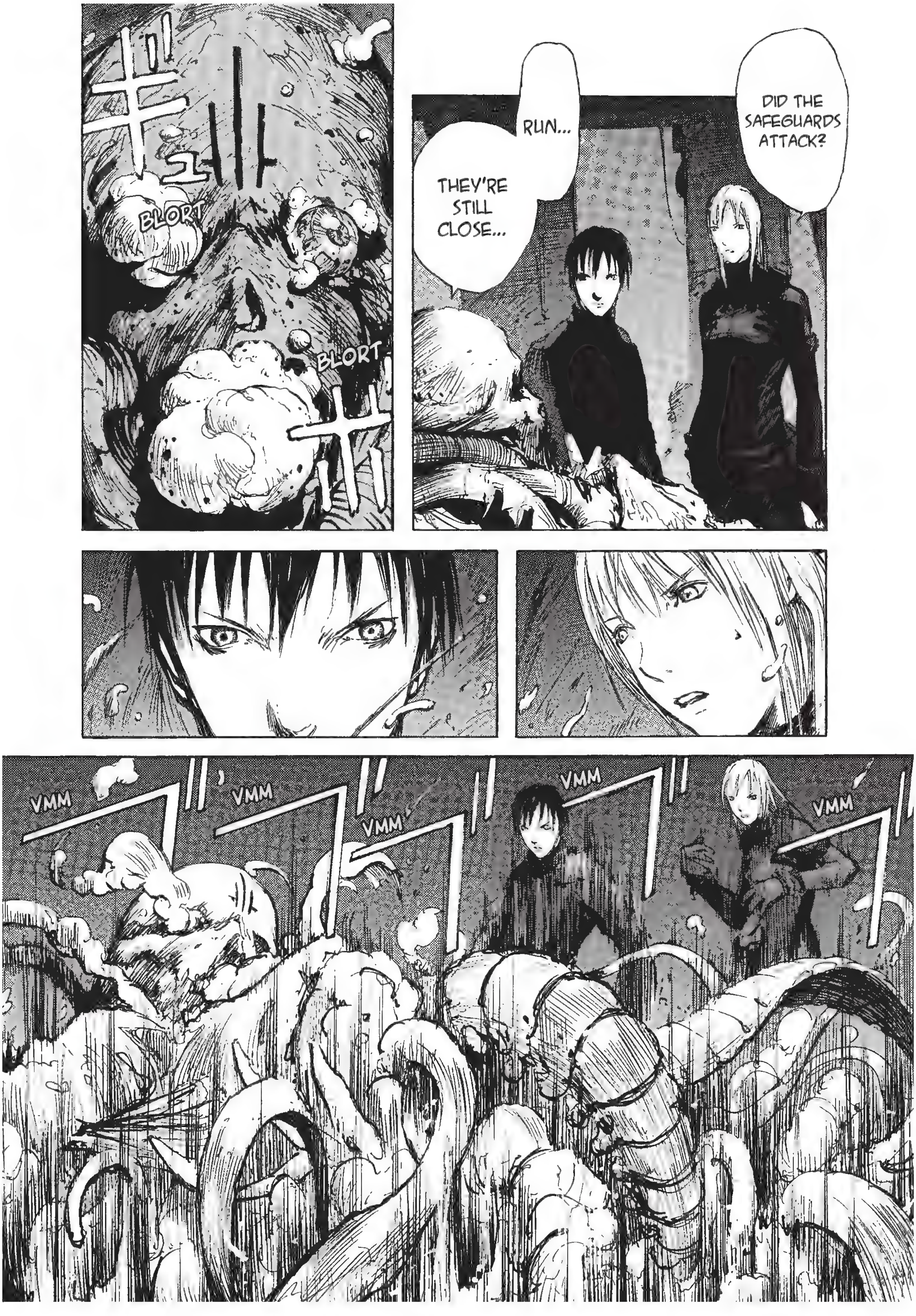

IT LOOKS LIKE THEIR ANCESTORS DIVERGED FROM OURS A LONG TIME AGO.
AS FOR THE NET TERMINAL GENE...
THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT MUTATED REMNANTS ...
THESE PEOPLE WERE INFECTED, TOO.
THEIR LANGUAGE MATRIX IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS OURS. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM.

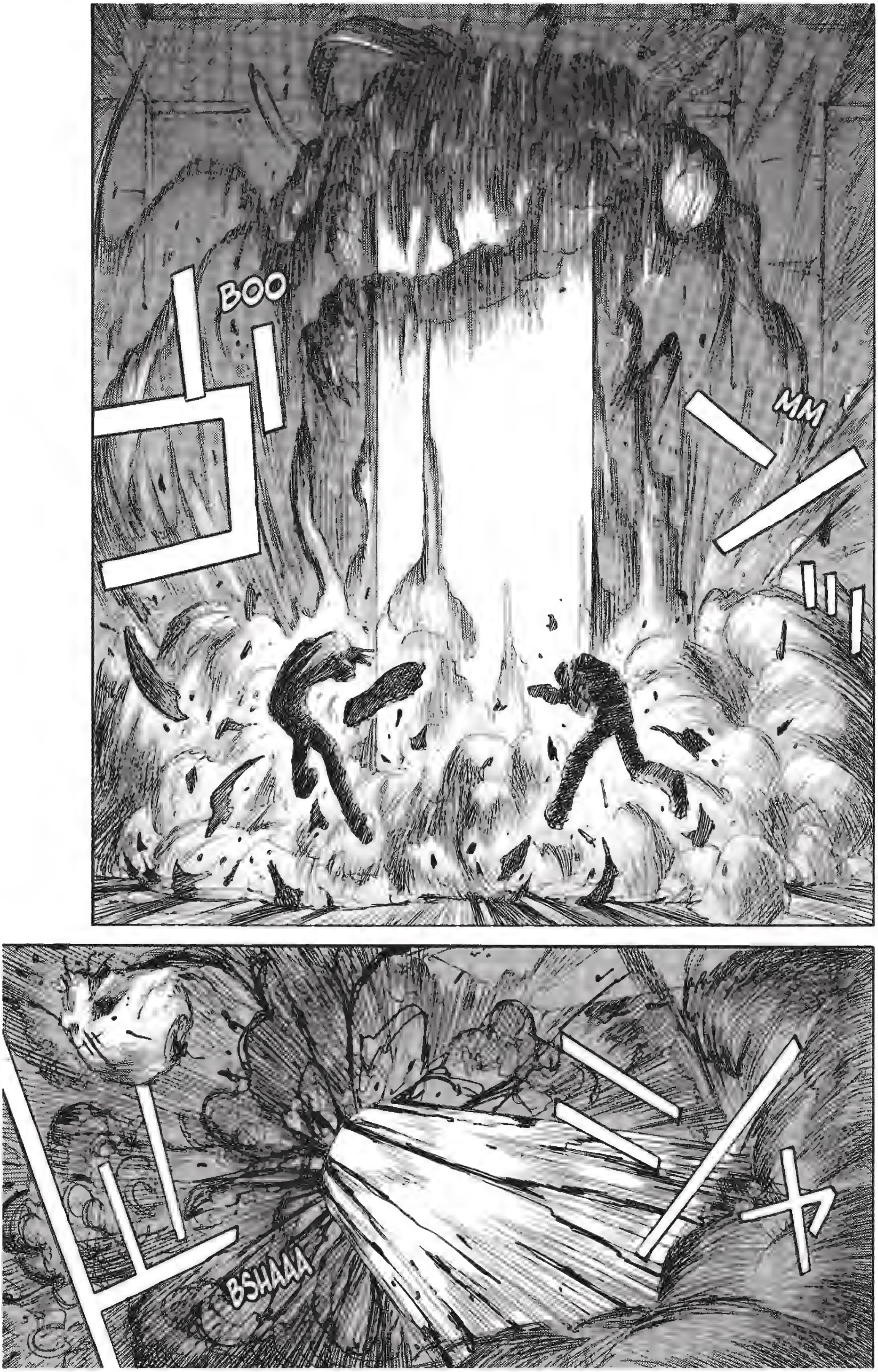

JAKK

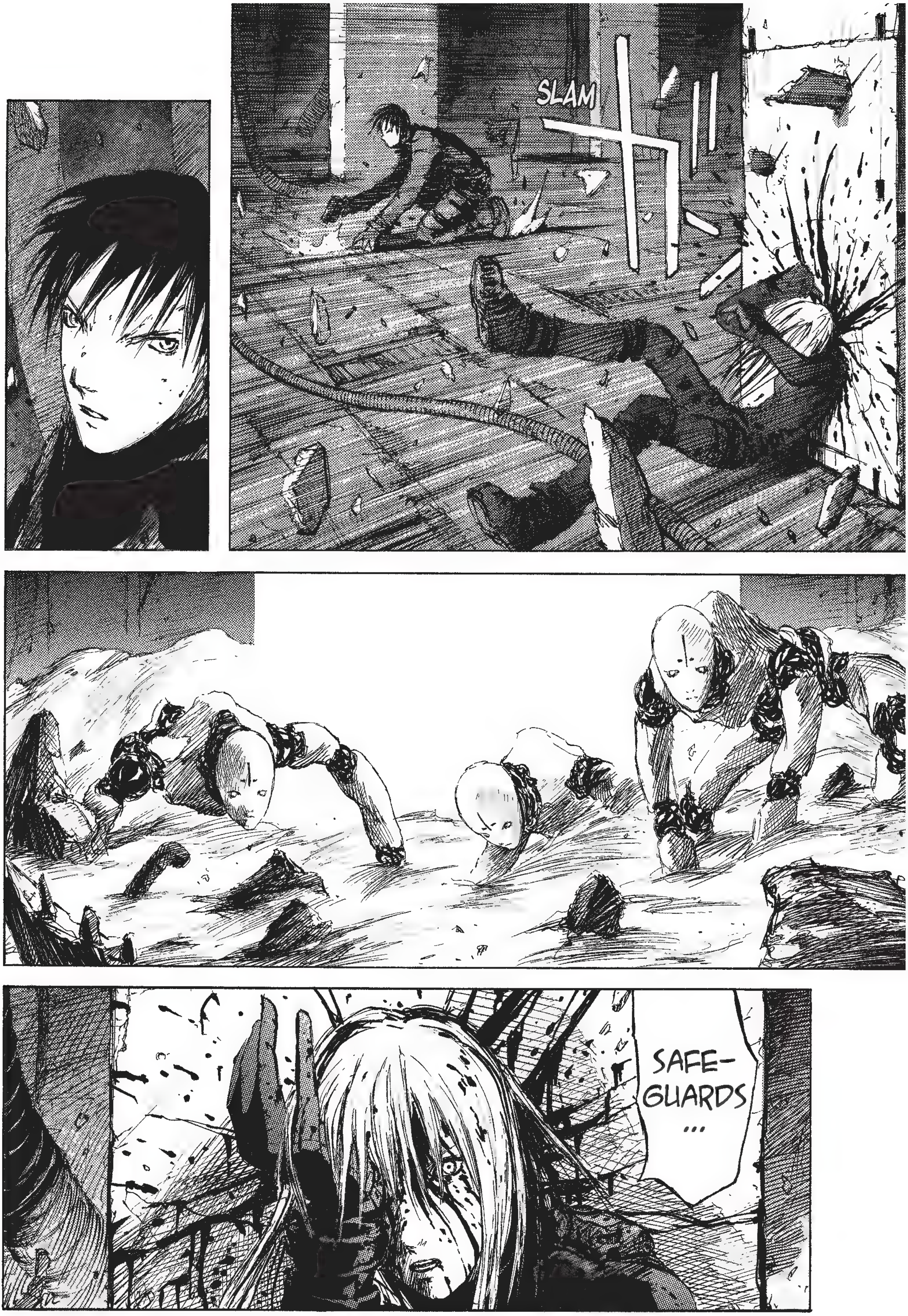


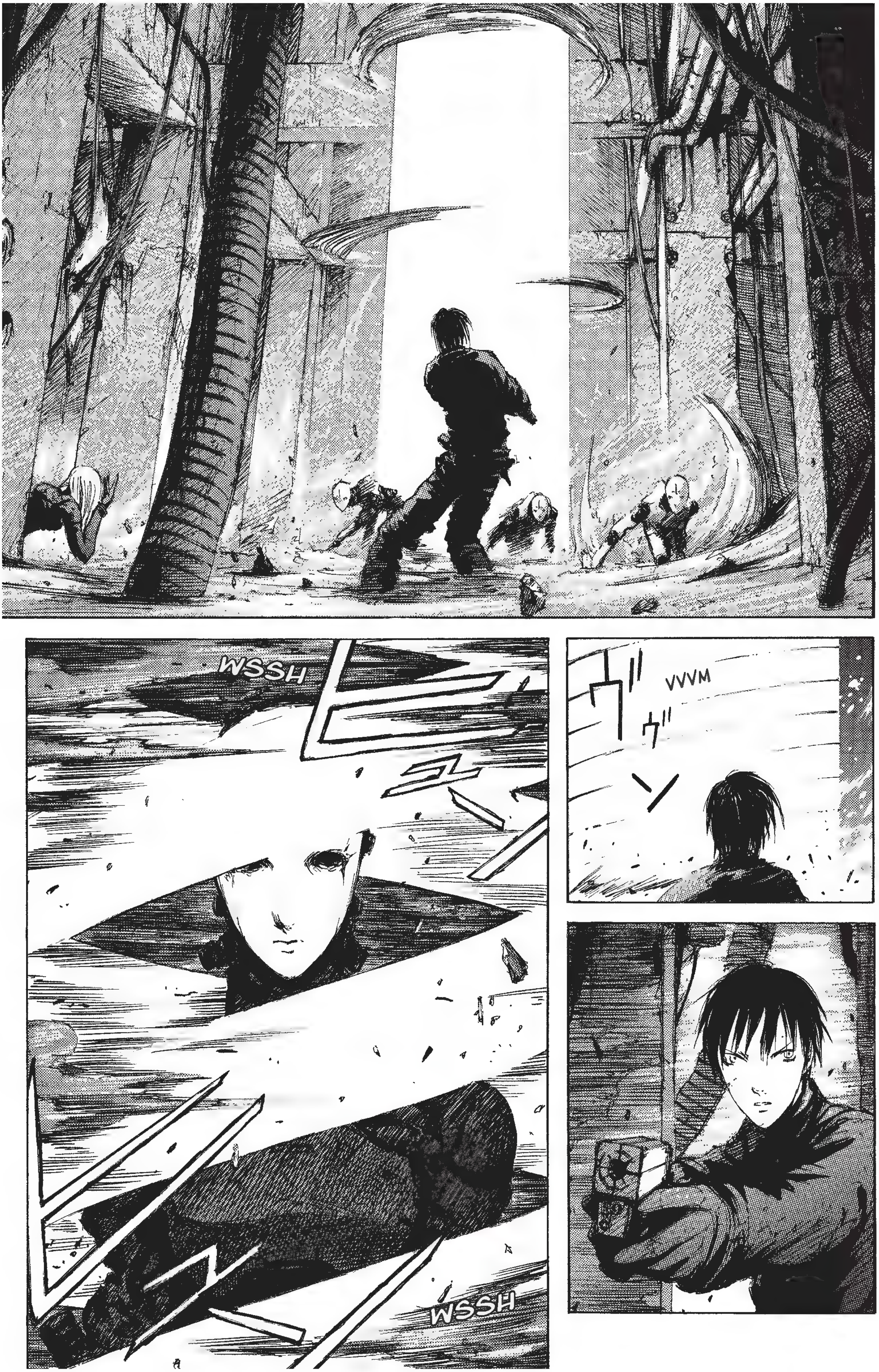


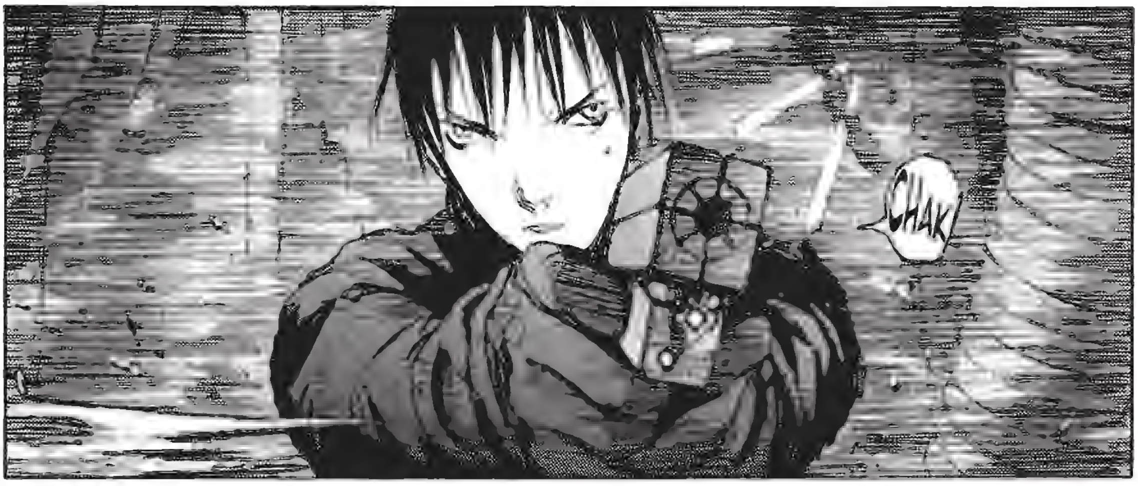

HOW DID THIS GET HERE...
IS IT ALIVE?
TUNK TUNK TUNK
BLINK
YOU'RE ADMINISTRATION, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
...
WE FAILED TO PROTECT THIS SETTLEMENT.

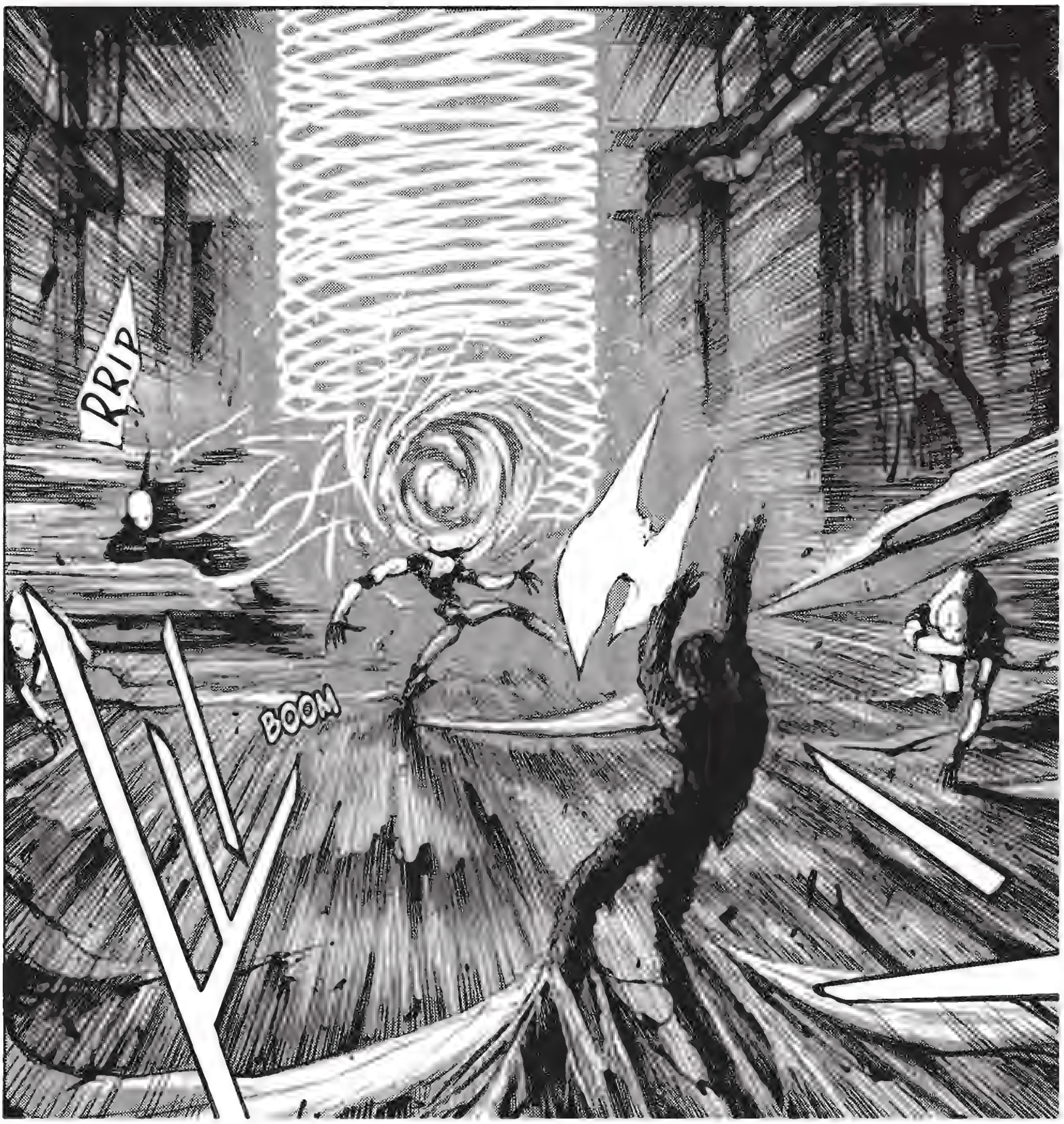

DID THE SAFEGUARDS ATTACK?
RUN...
THEY'RE STILL CLOSE...
BLORT
BLORT
VMM
VMM
VMM
VMM
VMM

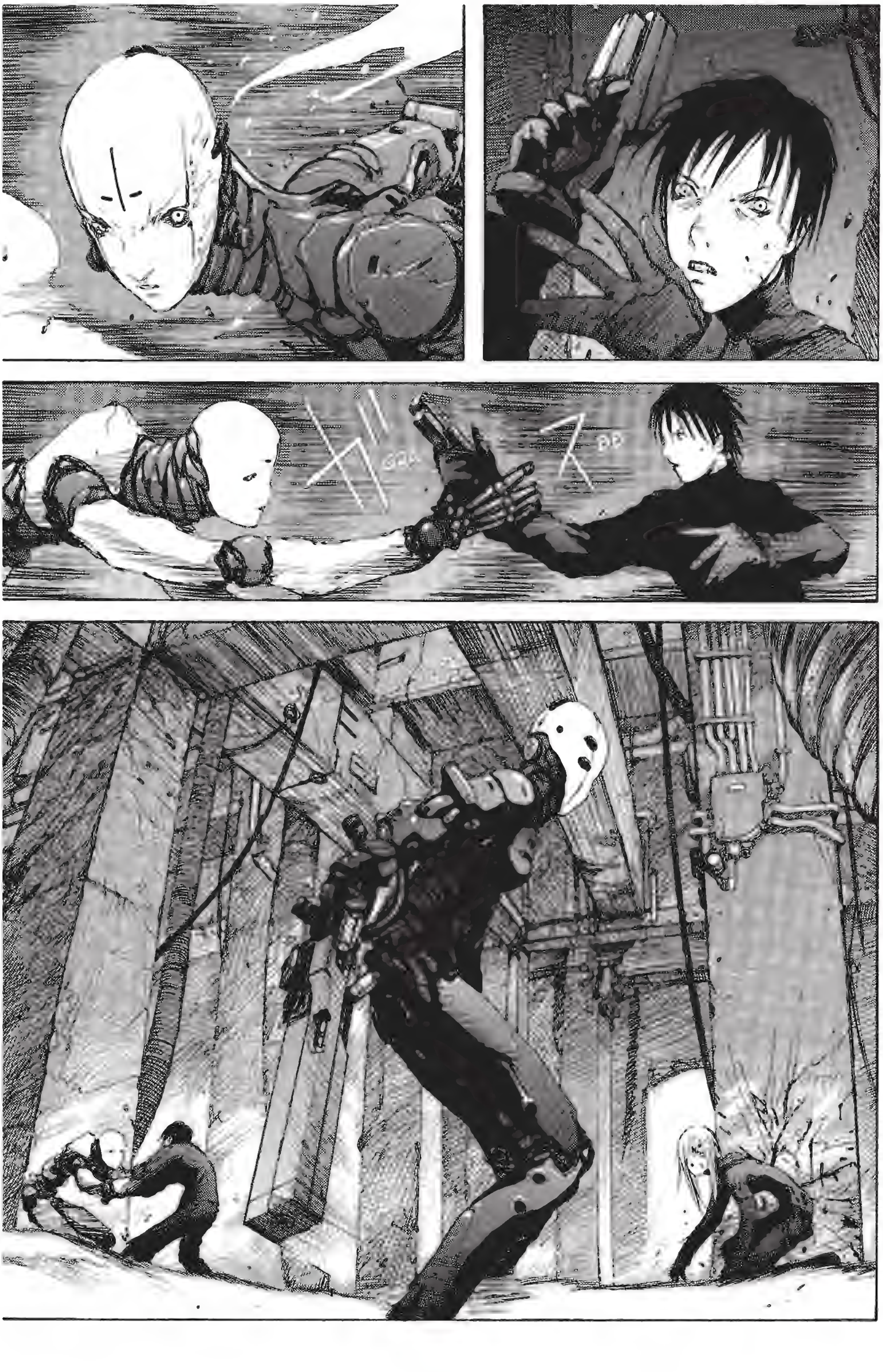

BOO
MM
BSHAAA

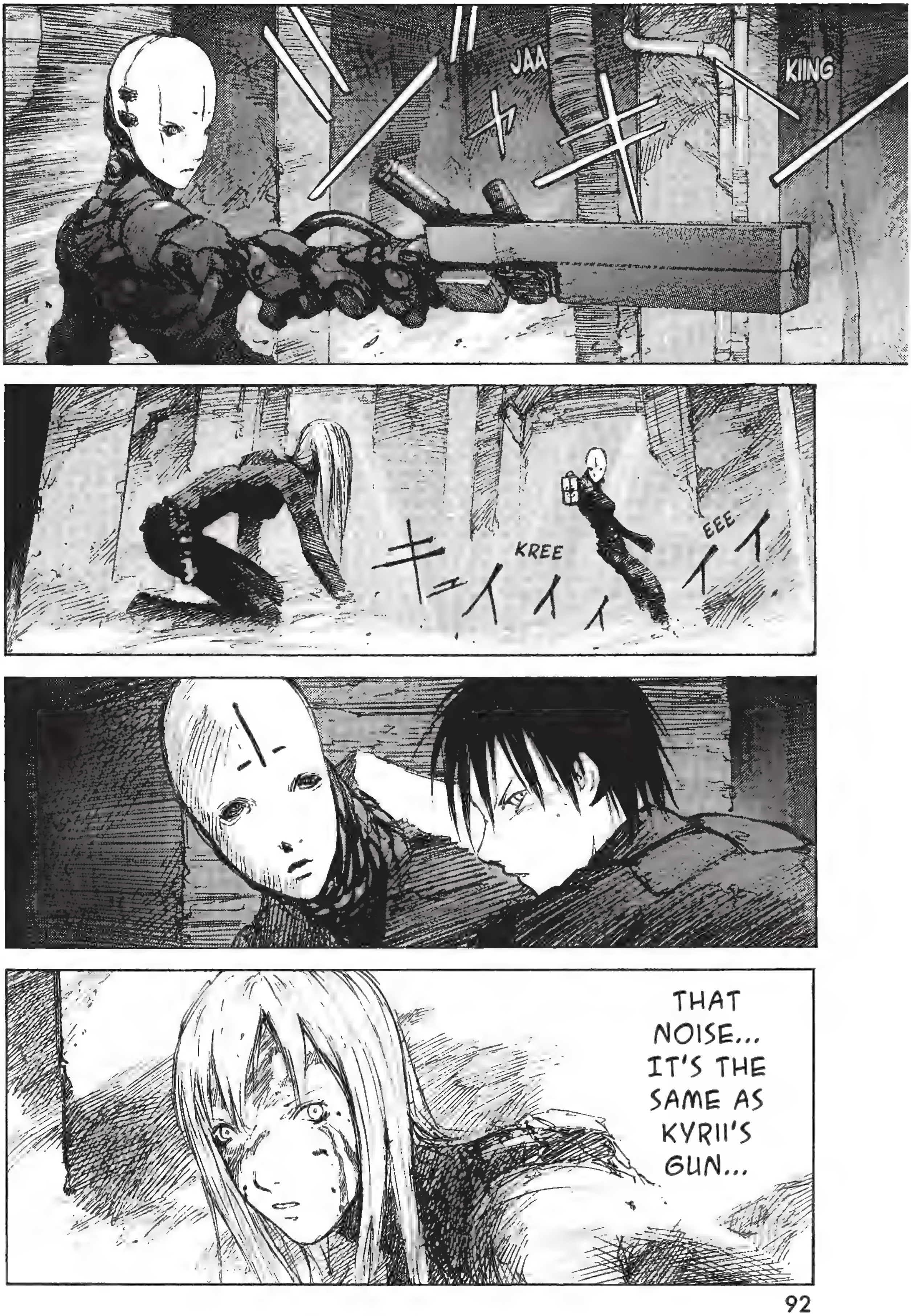

SLAM
SAFE-GUARDS ...

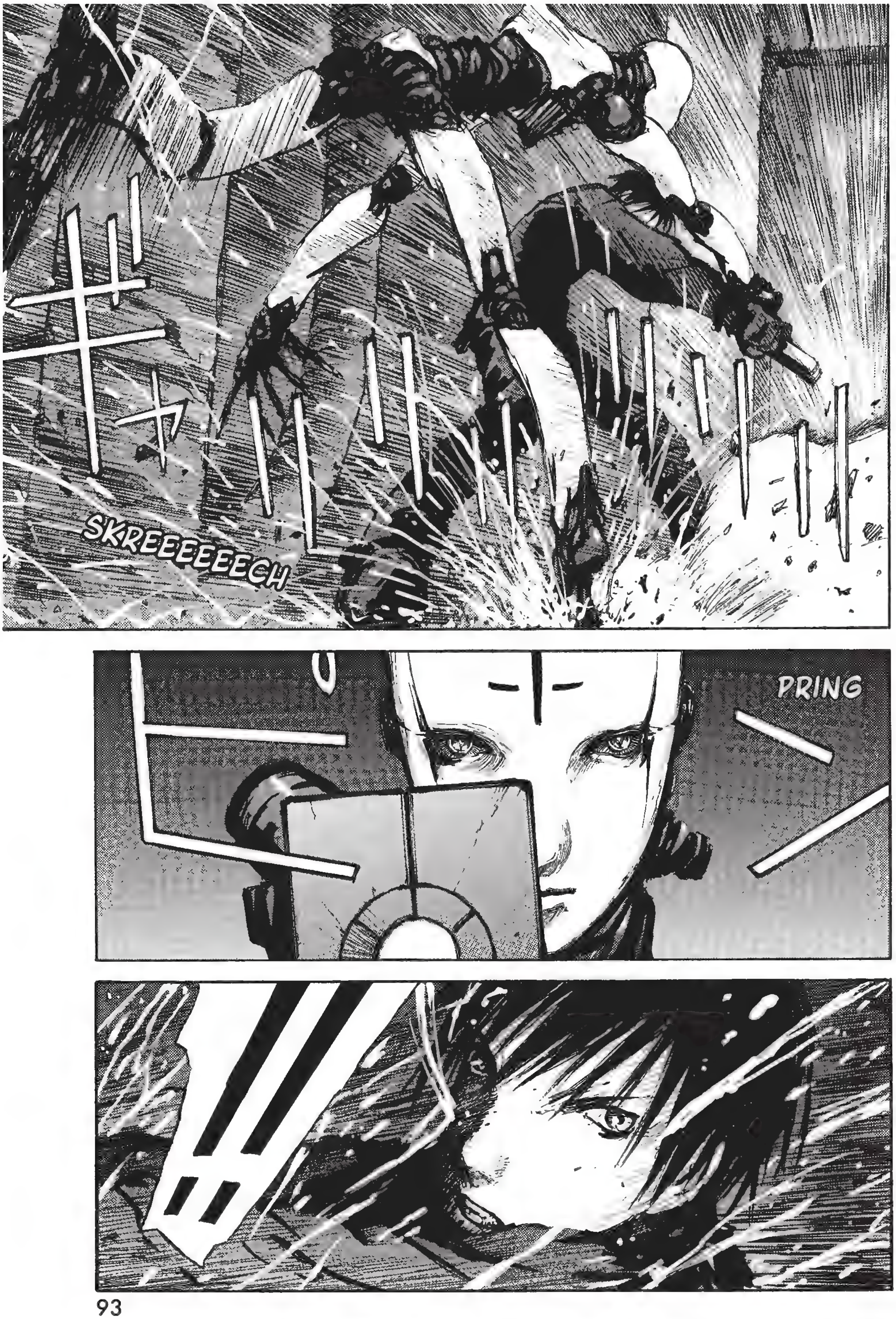

ヴヴン
VVVM
ヒュ
WSSH
ヒュ
WSSH

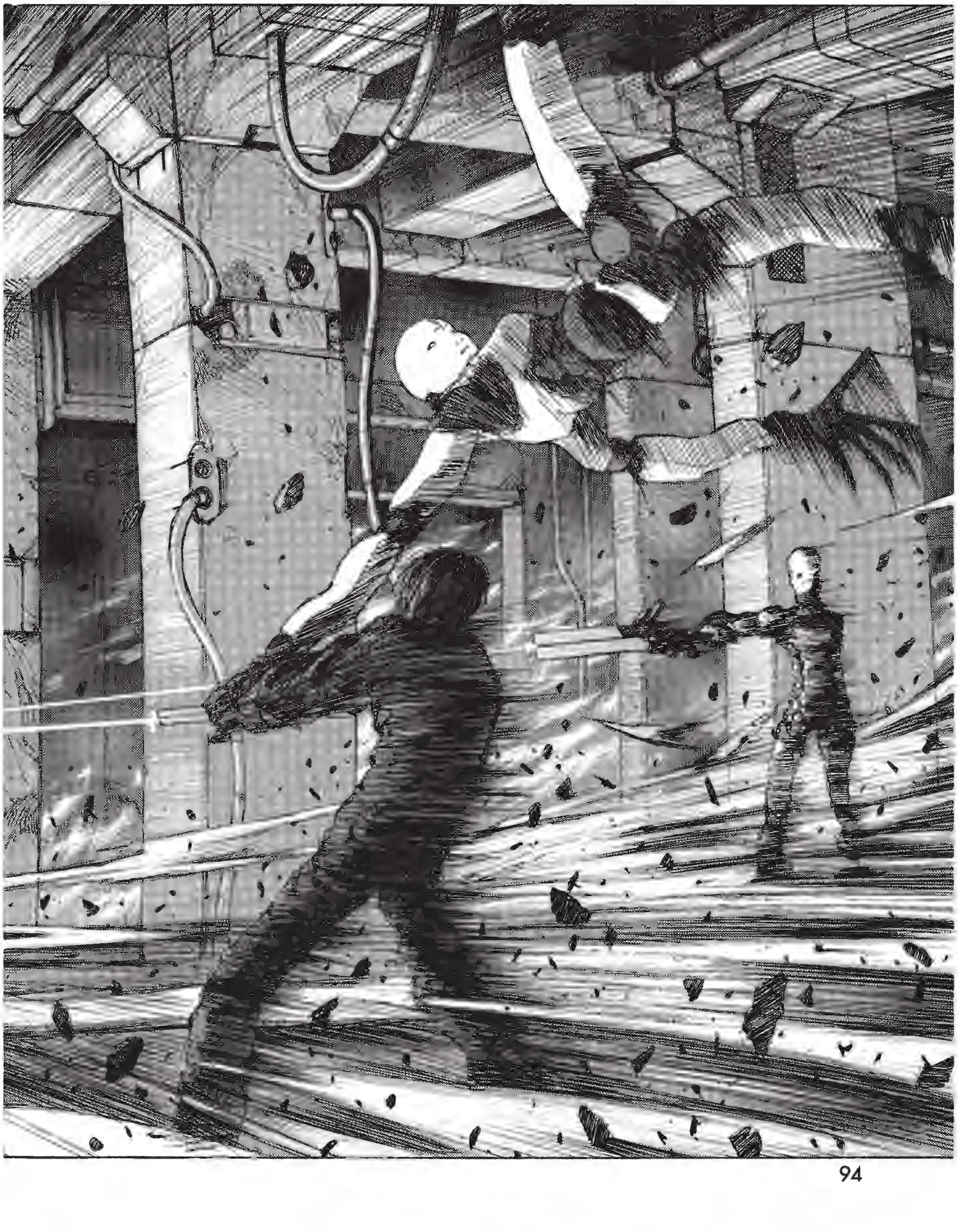

CHAK

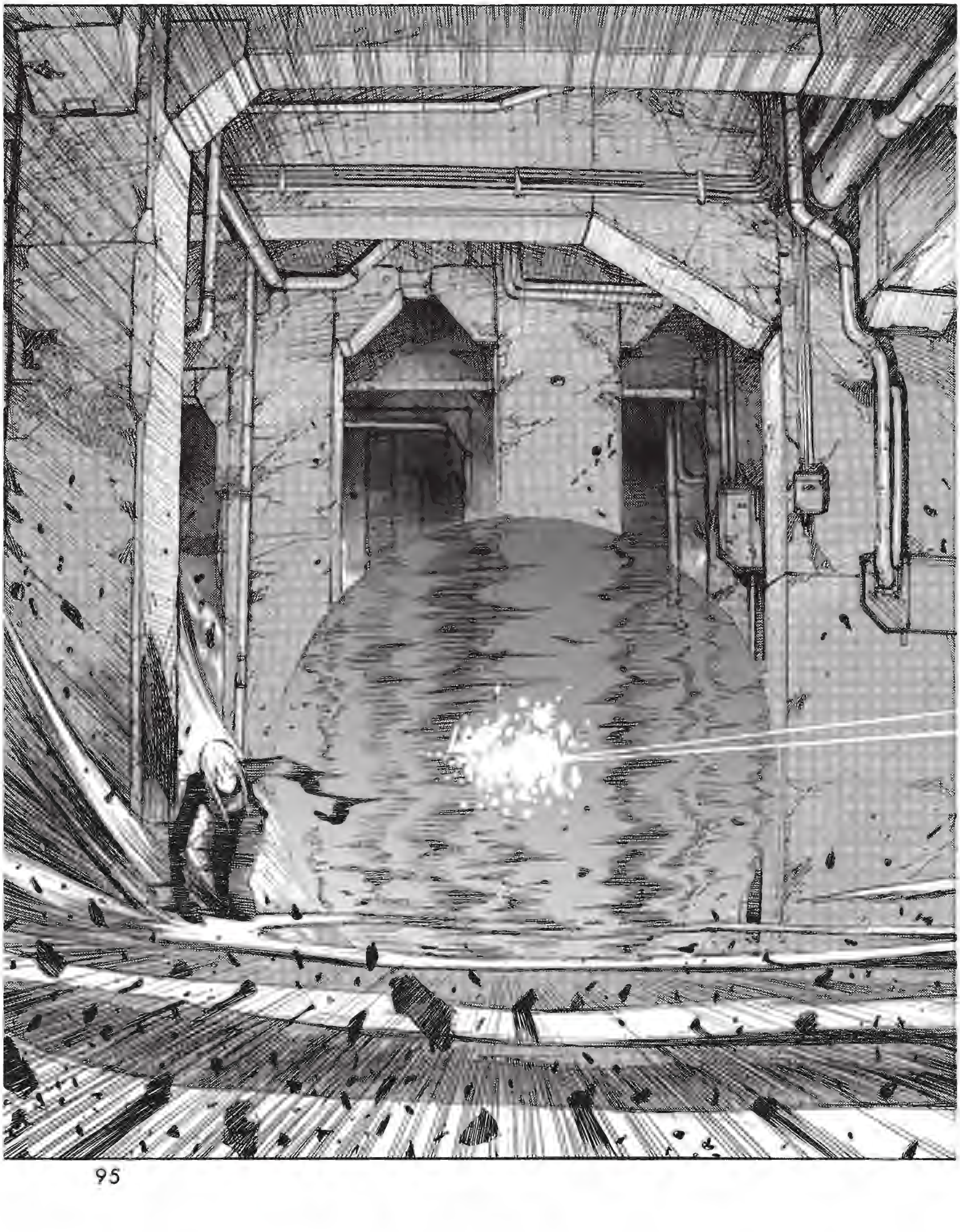

RRIP
BOOM

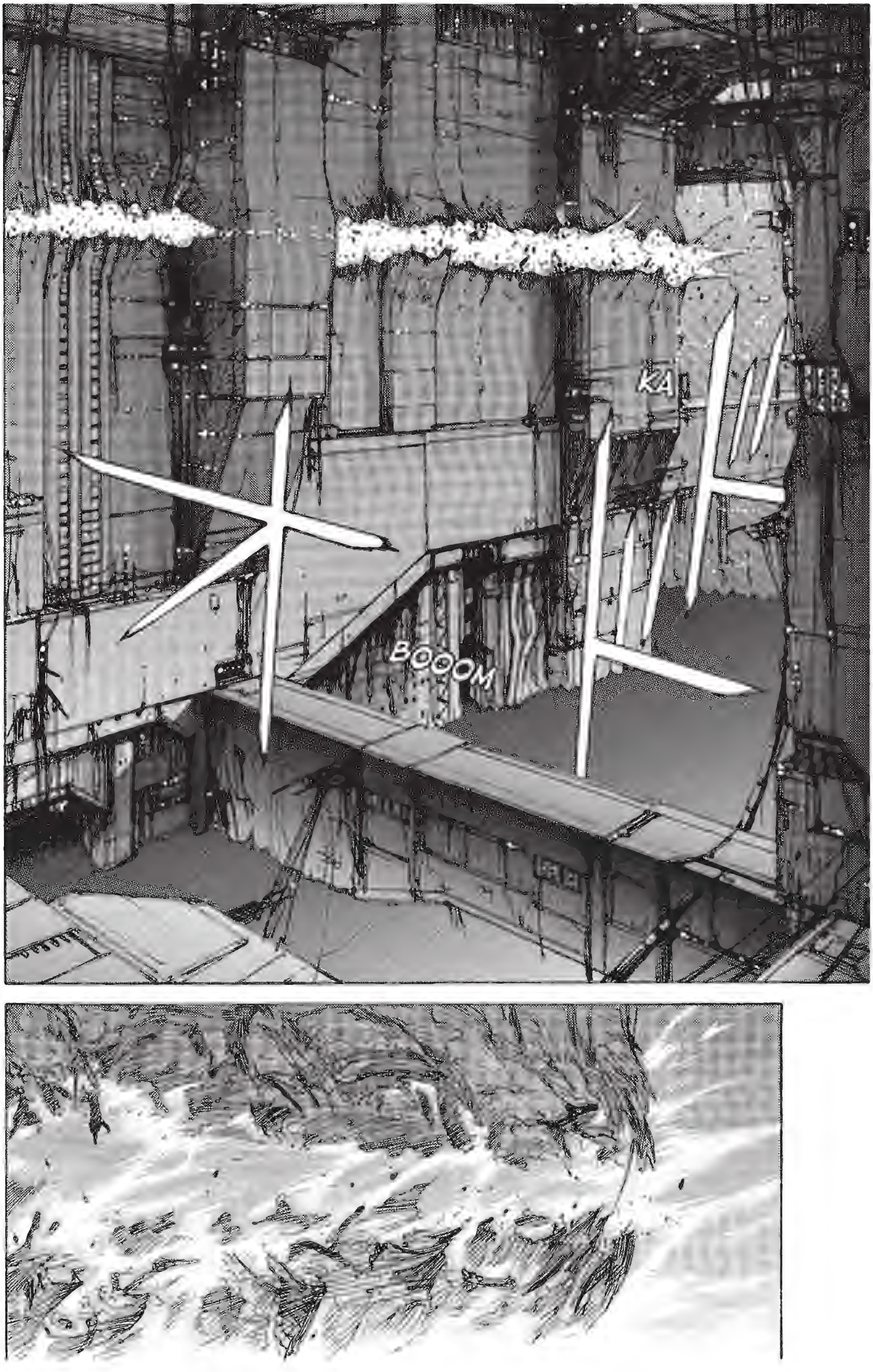

ス
BB
ガッ
GRA

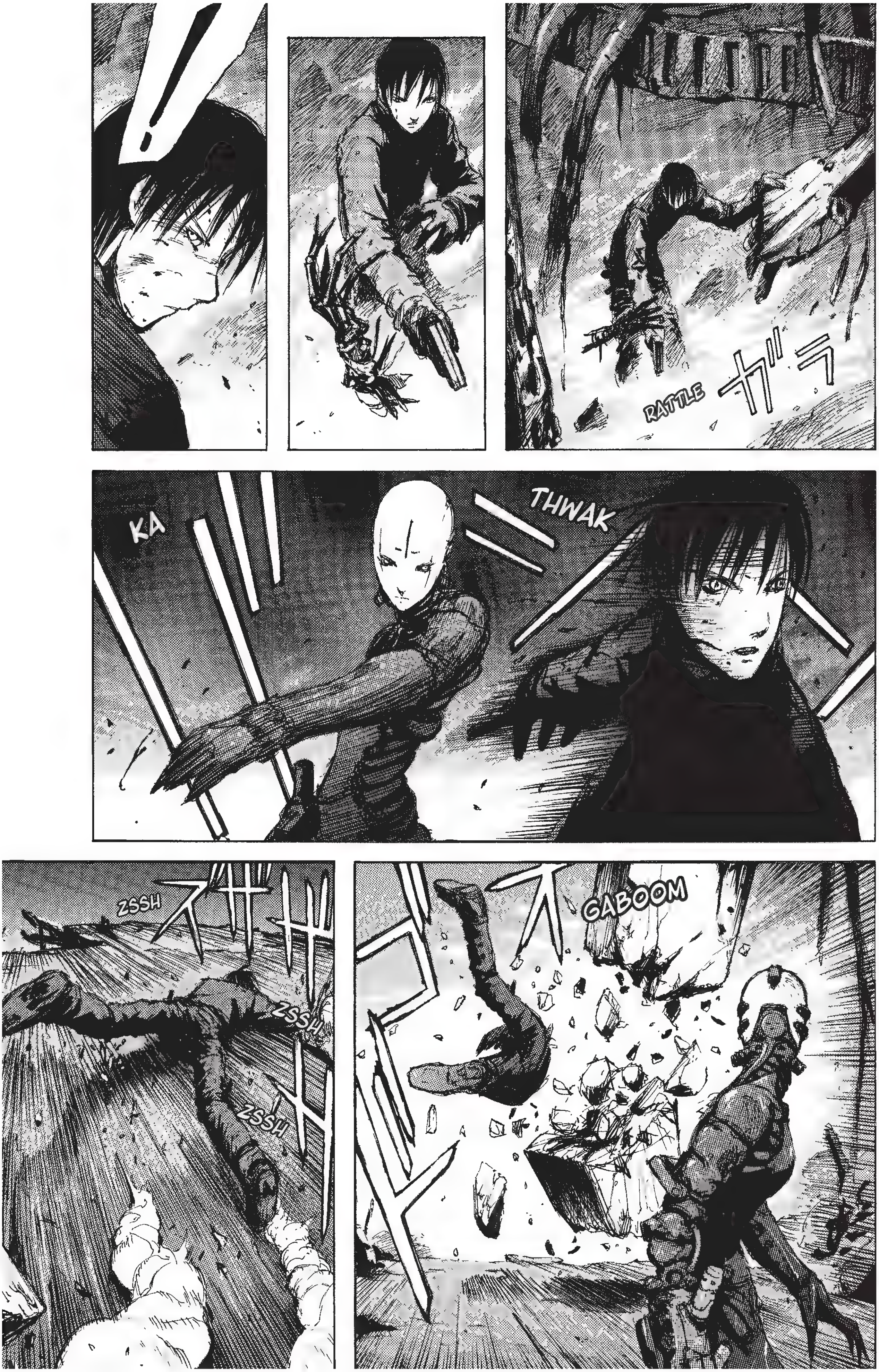

KIING
JAA
ジャキ
KREE
EEE
キュイイイイ
THAT NOISE... IT'S THE SAME AS KYRII'S GUN...

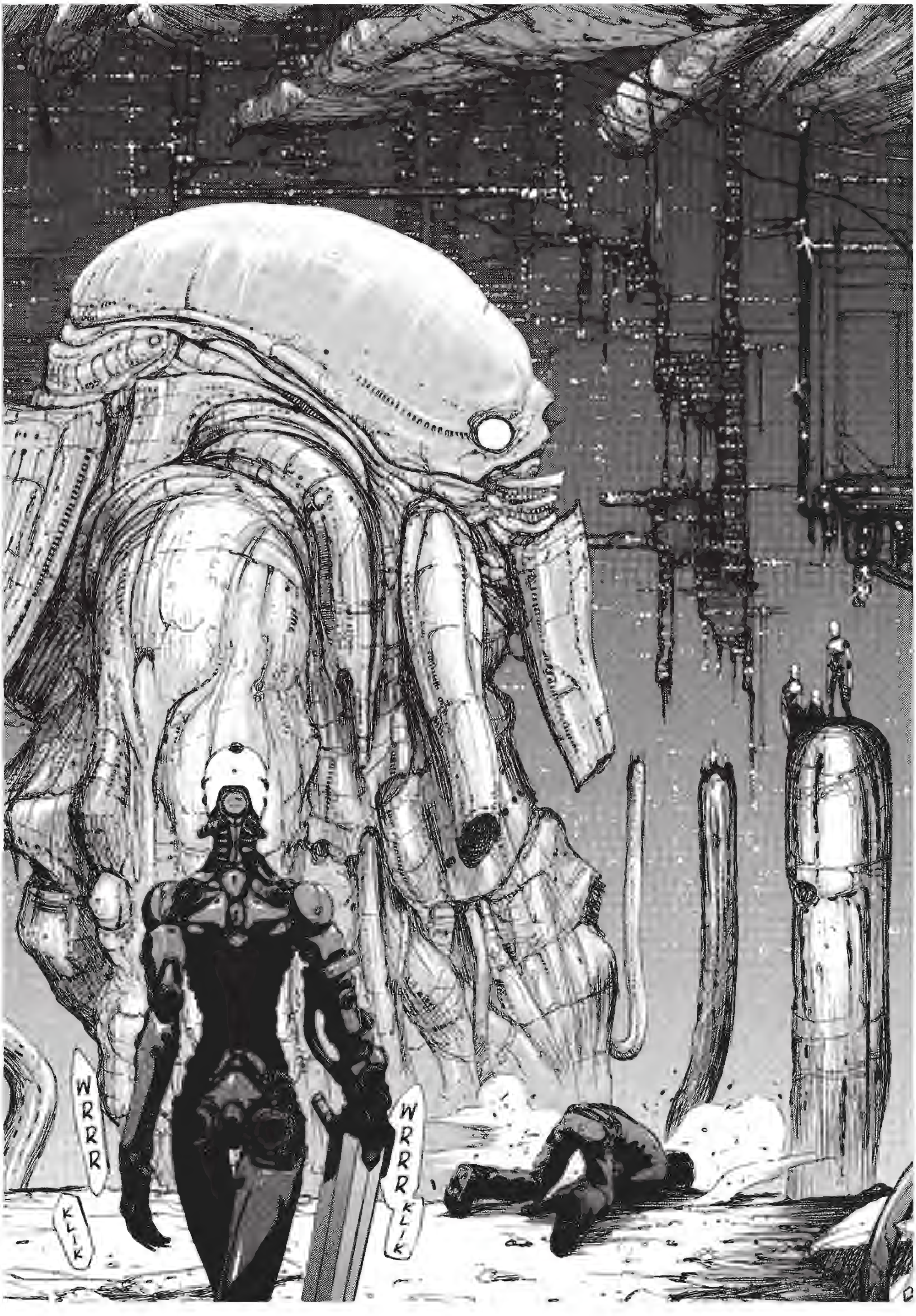

ギャリリリリリリリ
SKREEEEEEEECH
PRING

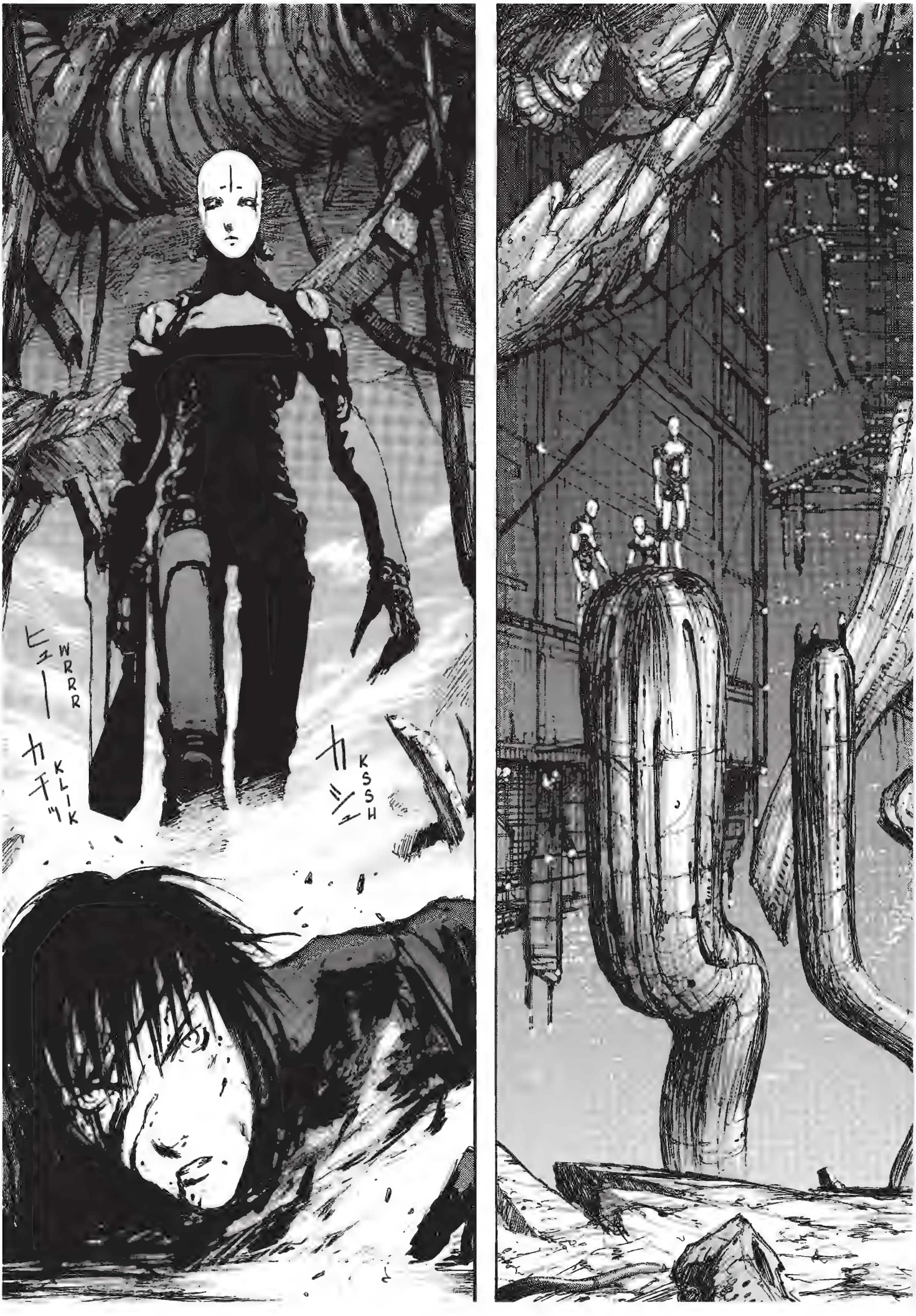


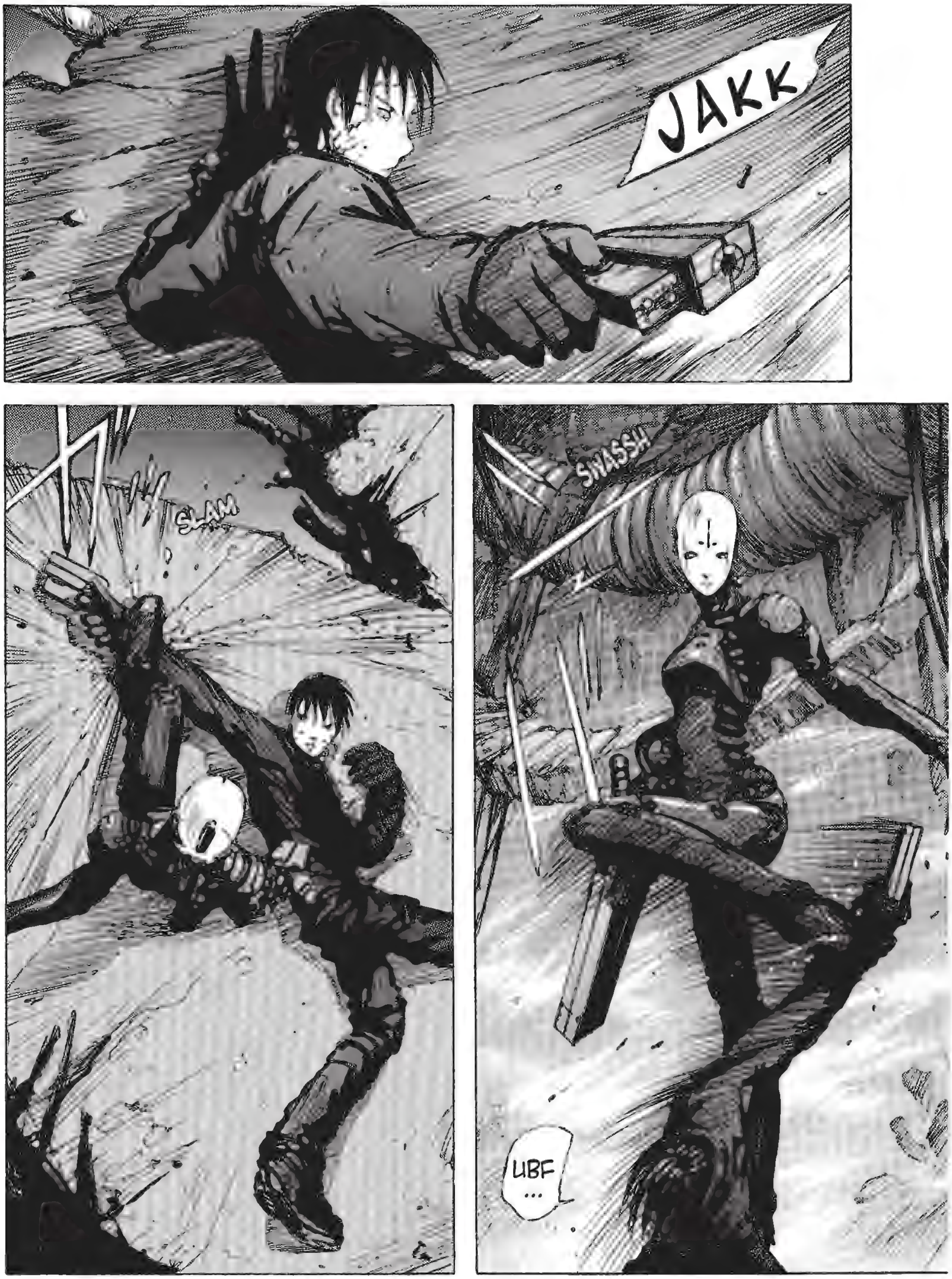


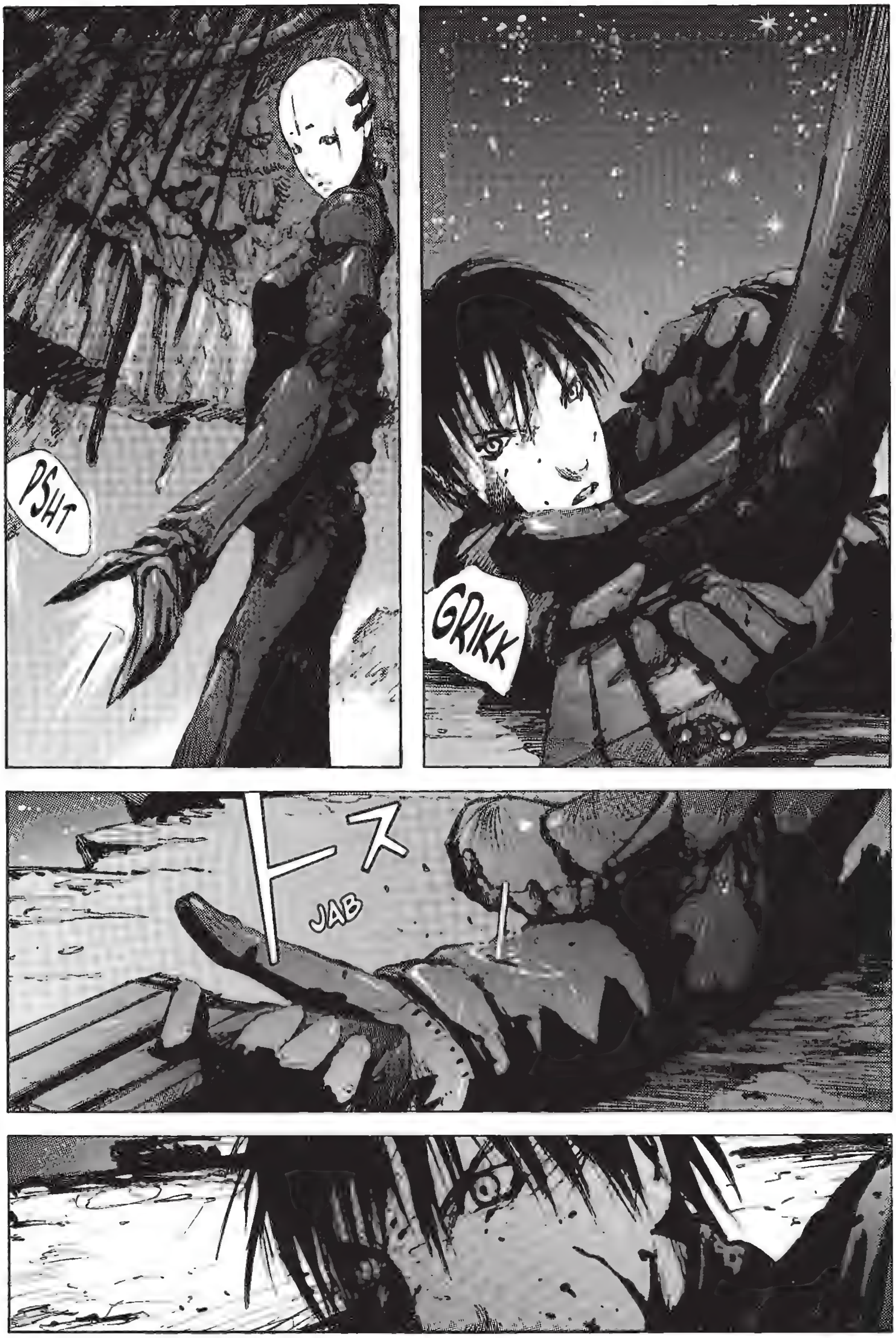

KA
BOOOM

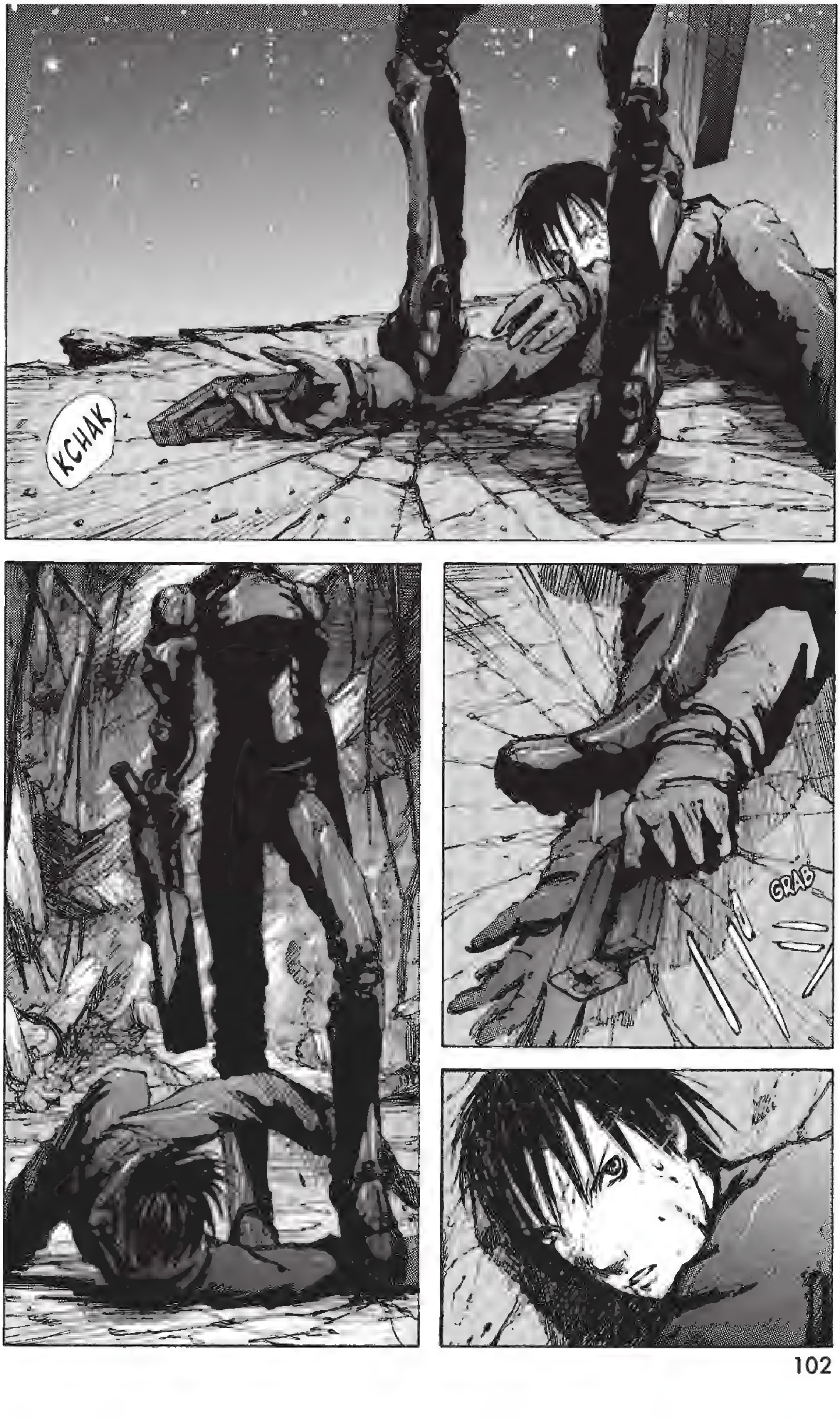

RATTLE
ガラ
!
THWAK
KA
GABOOM
ZSSH
ZSSH
ZSSH

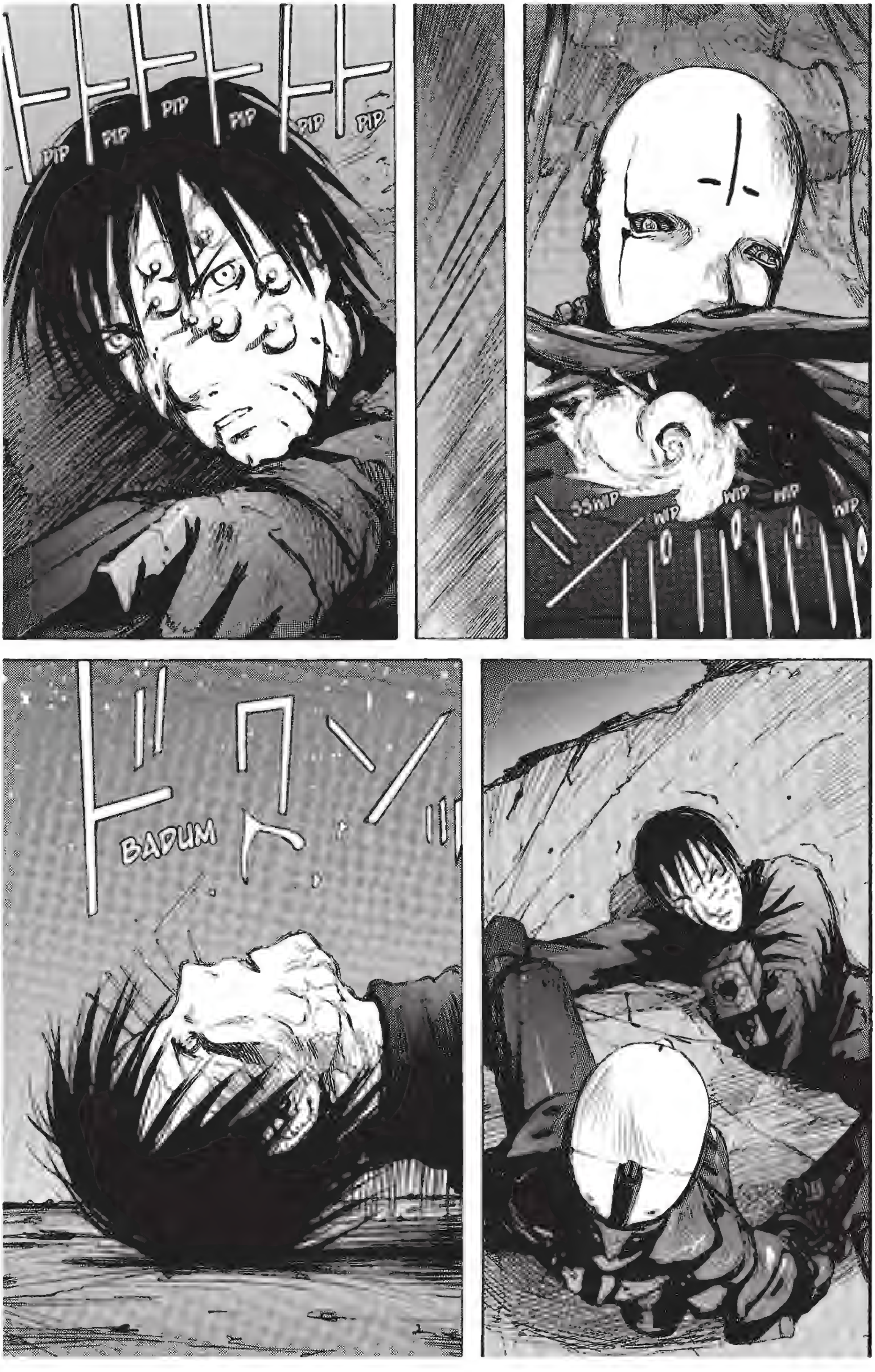

WRRR
KLIK
WRRR
KLIK

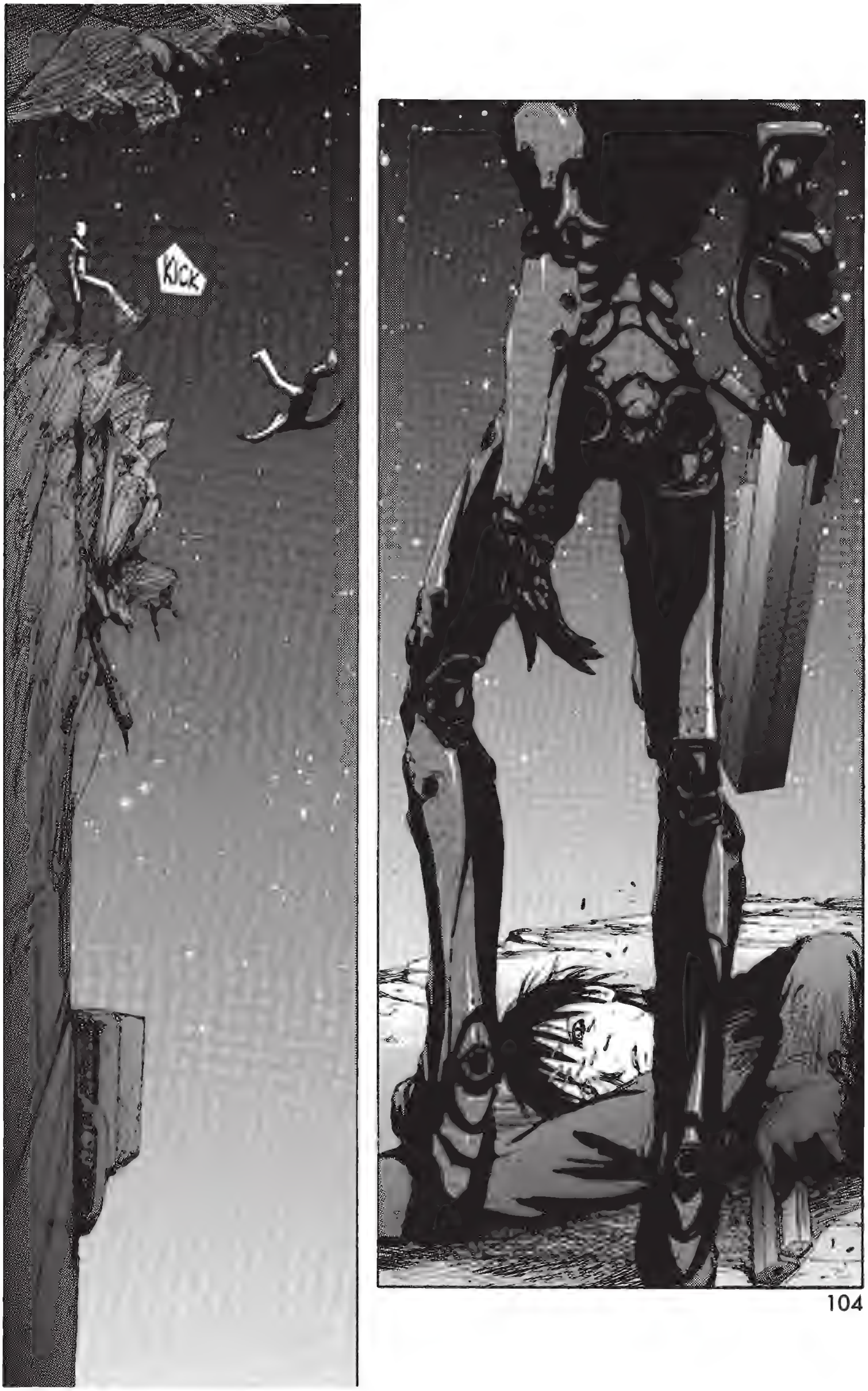

カシュ KSSH
ヒュー WRRR
カチッ KLIK

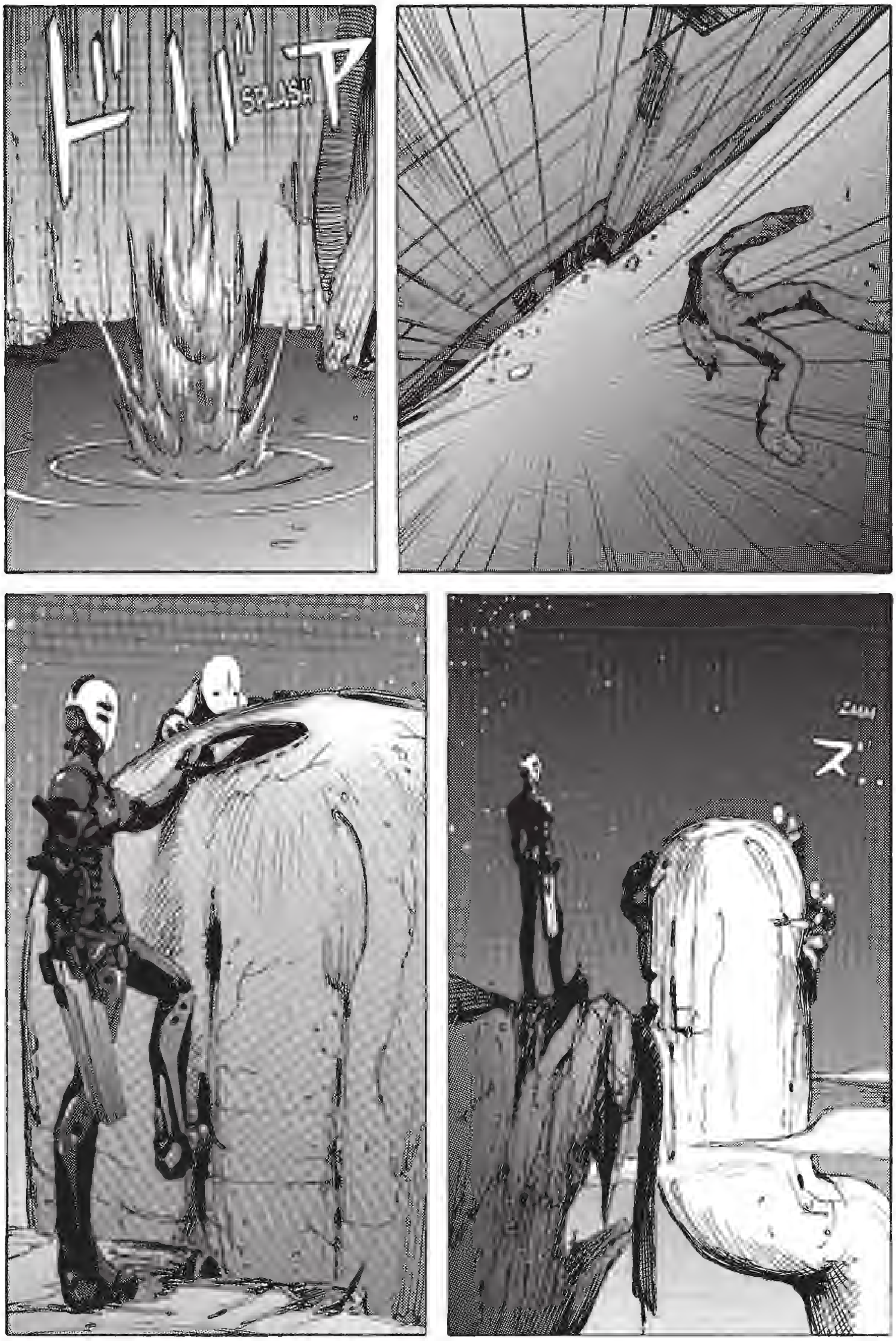

JAKK
SWASSH
UBF
...
SLAM

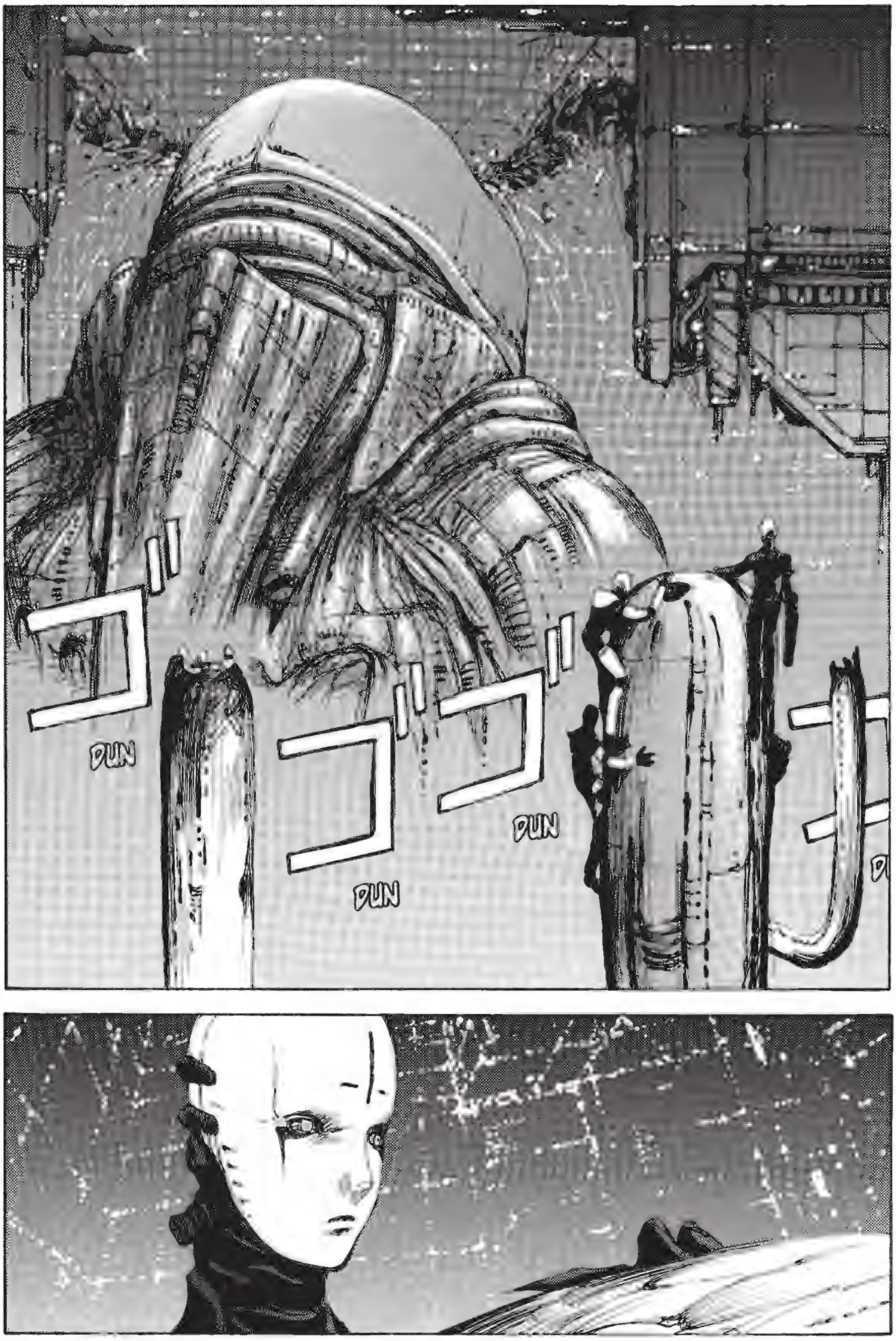

GRIKK
PSHT
トス
JAB


KCHAK
GRAB


トトトトトト
PIP PIP PIP PIP PIP PIP
SSWIP
WIP WIP WIP WIP
ドクン
BADUM


KICK


ドバア
SPLASH
ズ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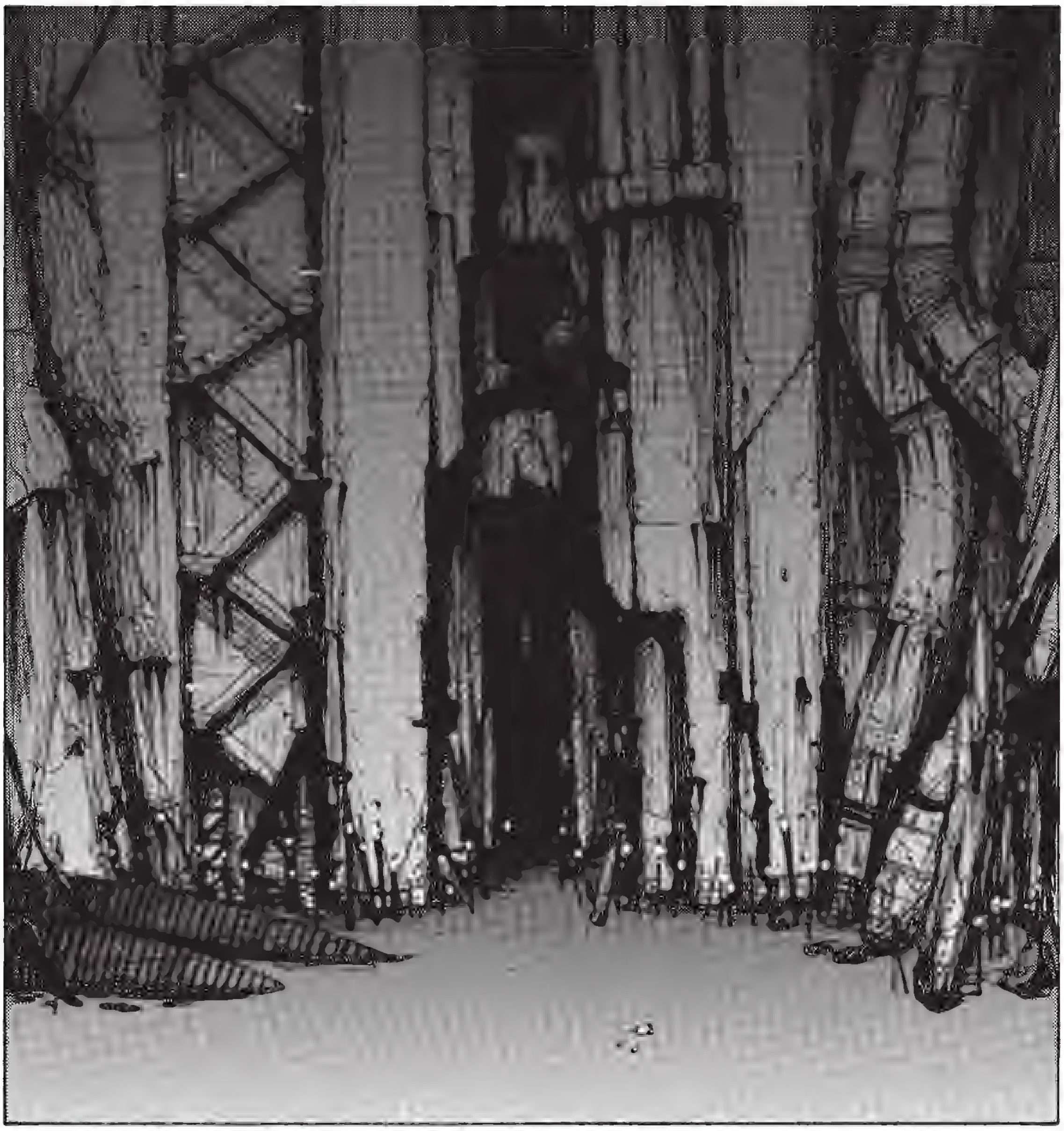
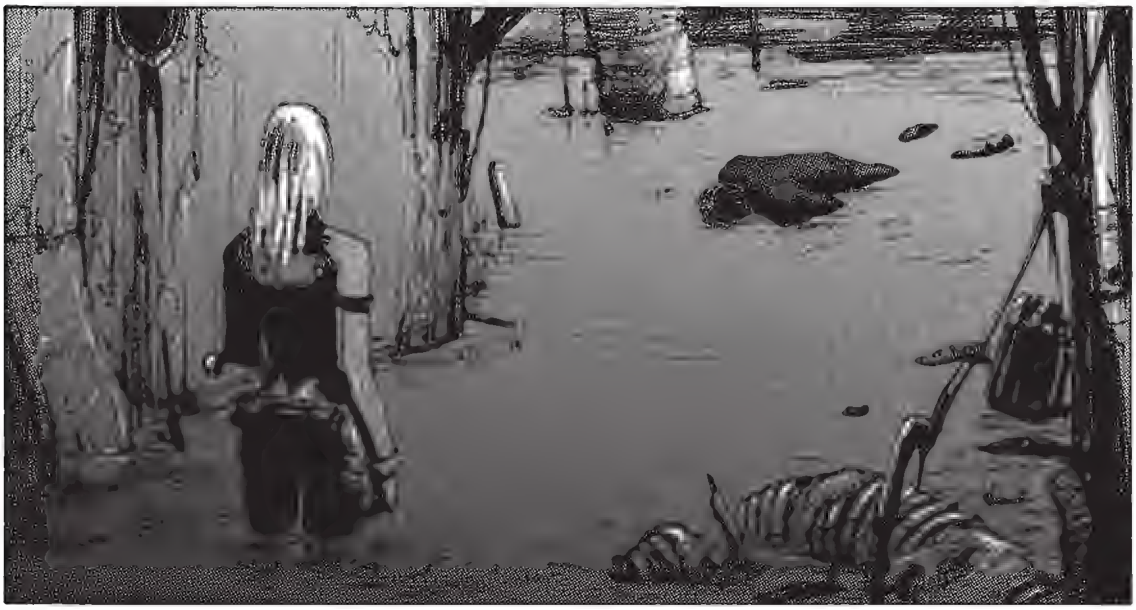
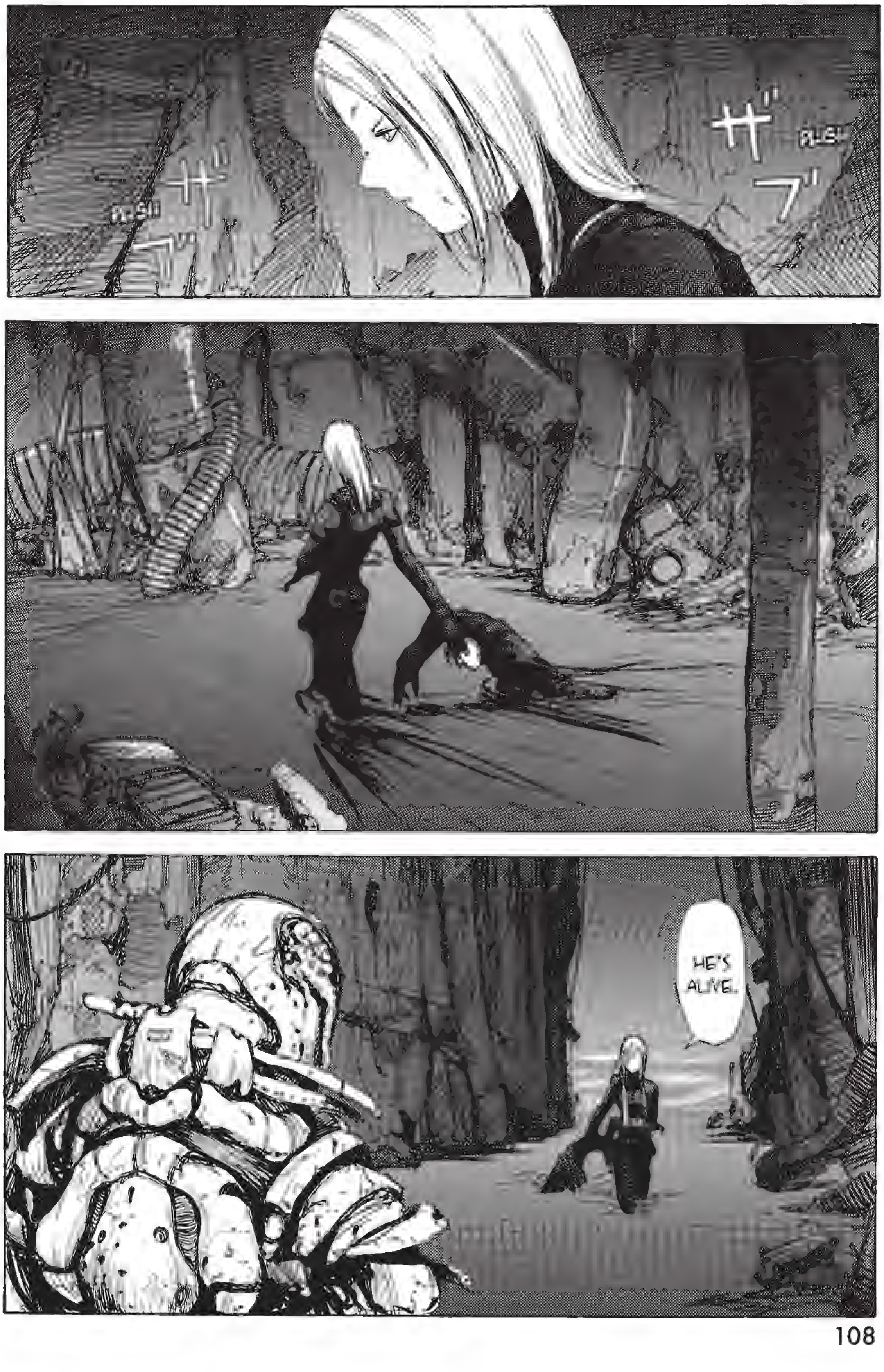
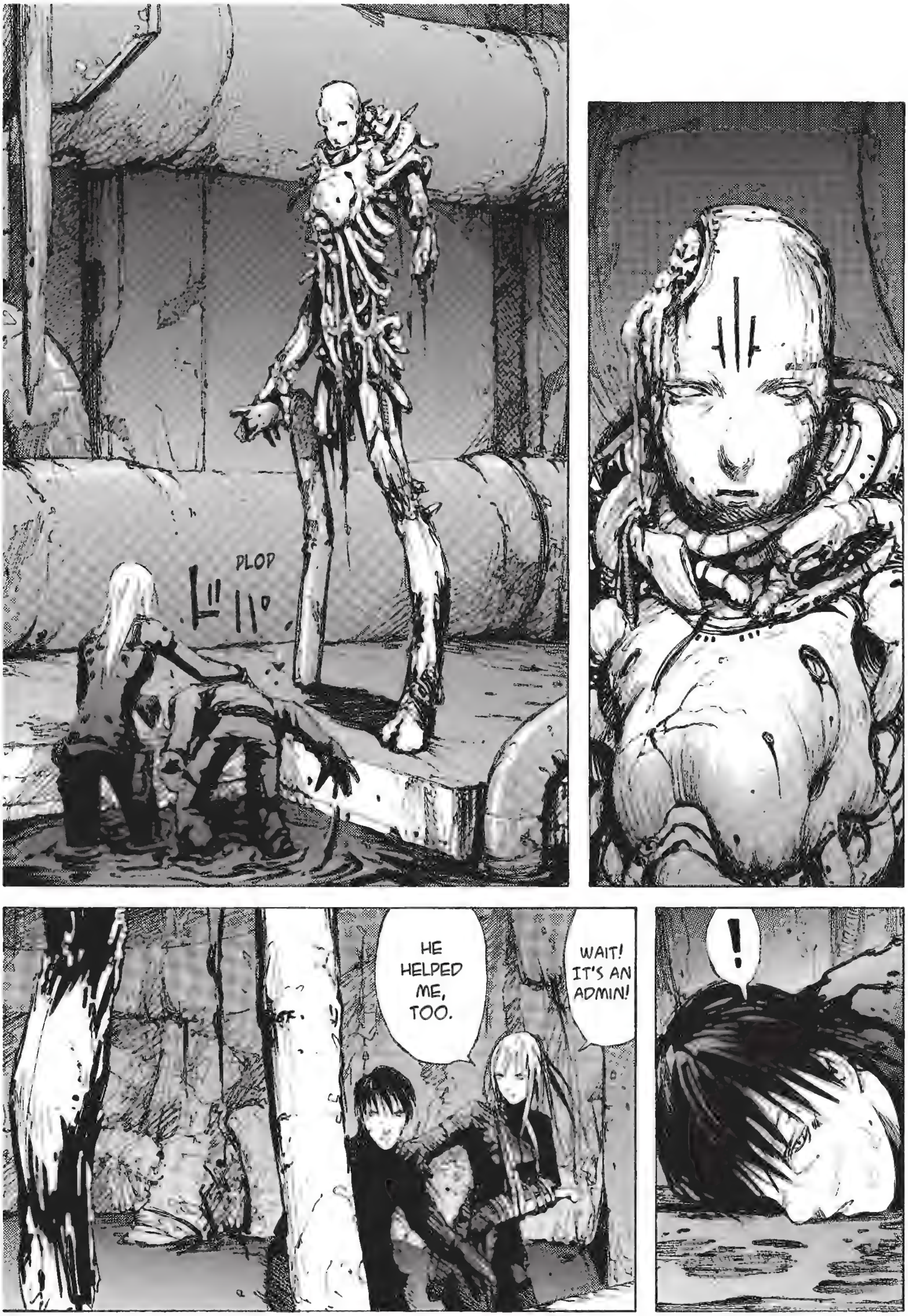
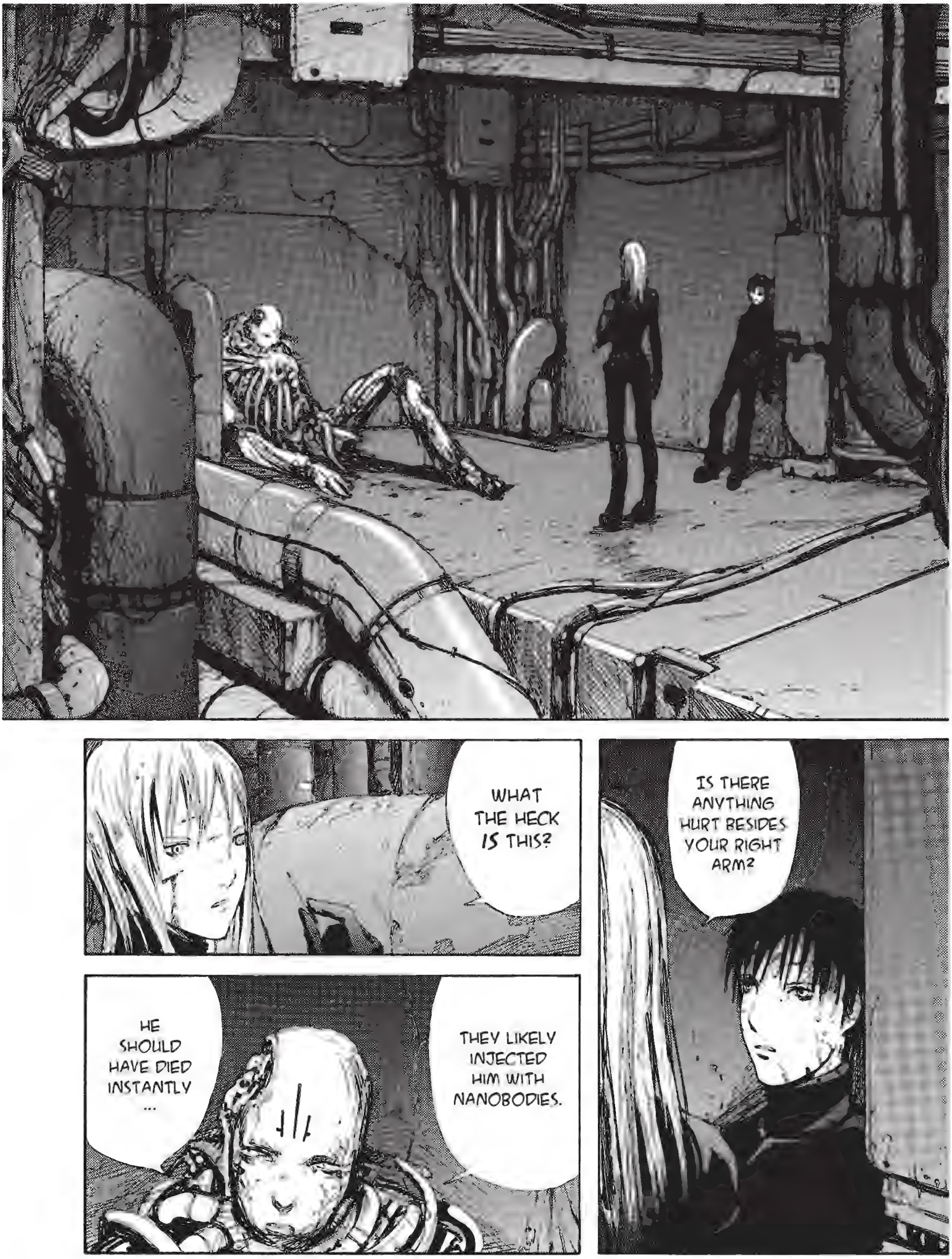
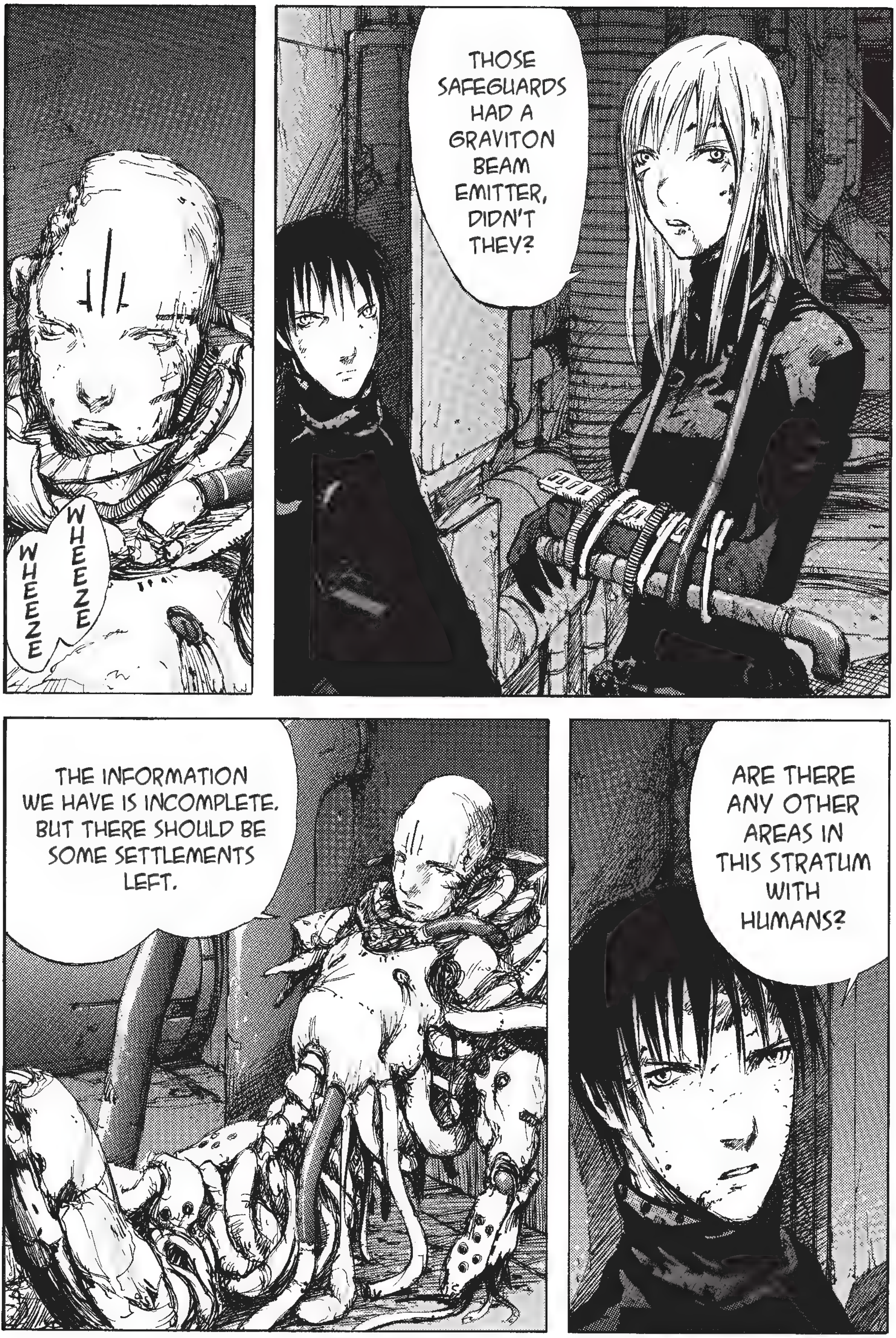


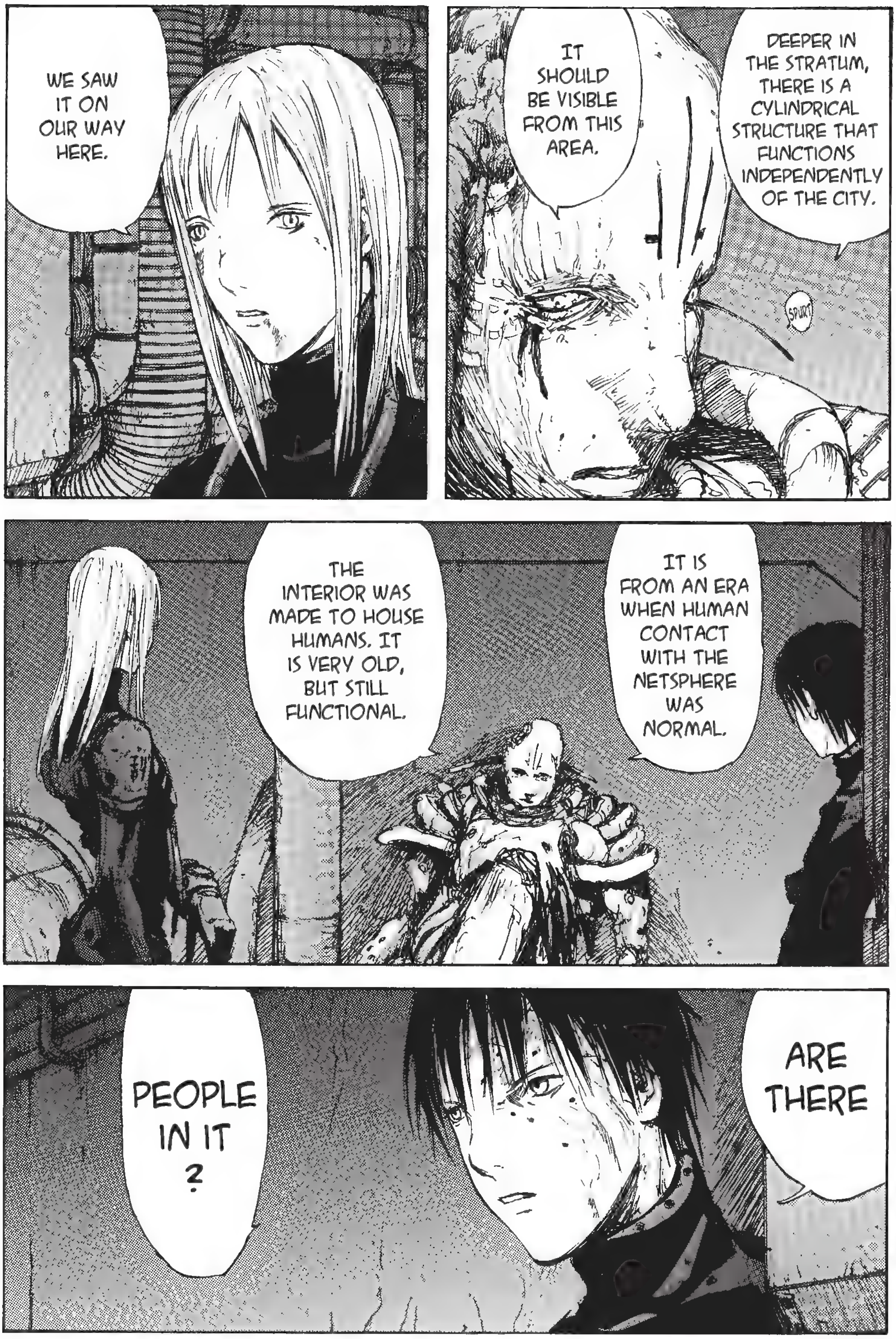


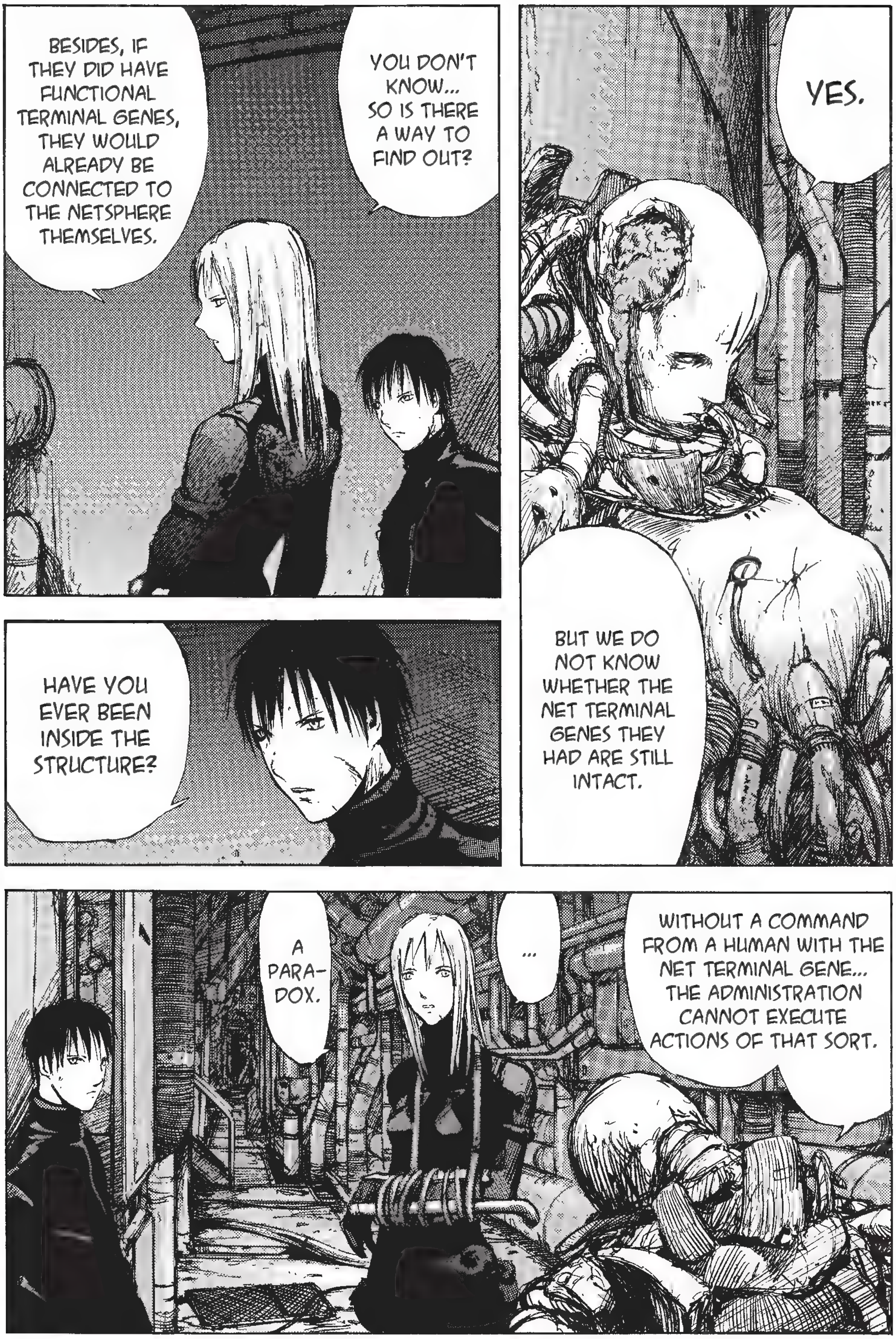

ザブ
PLISH
ザブ
PLISH
HE'S ALIVE!

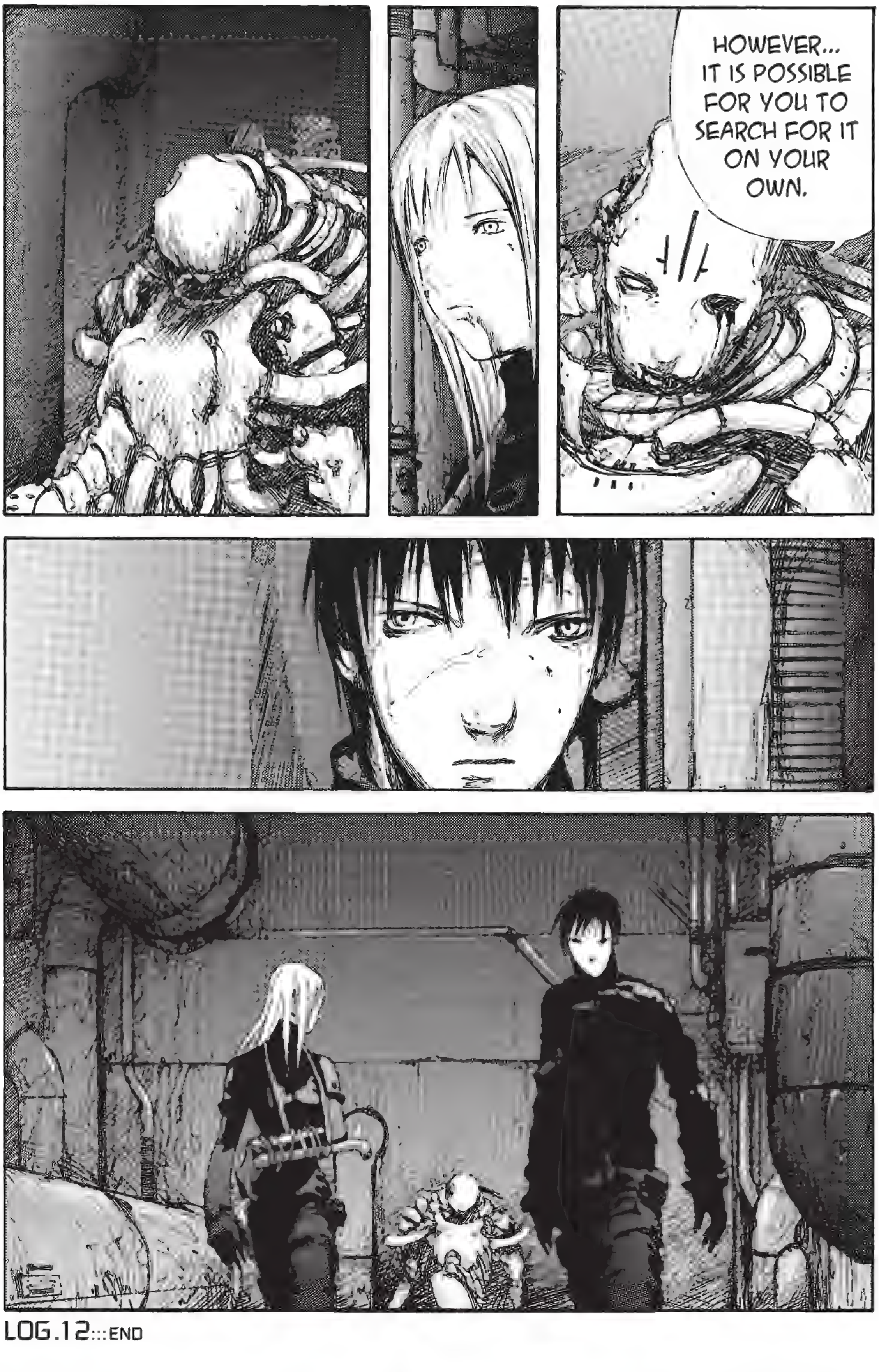

PLOP
!
WAIT! IT'S AN ADMIN!
HE HELPED ME, TOO.


WHAT THE HECK *IS* THIS?
THEY LIKELY INJECTED HIM WITH NANOBODIES.
HE SHOULD HAVE DIED INSTANTLY …
IS THERE ANYTHING HURT BESIDES YOUR RIGHT ARM?


THOSE SAFEGUARDS HAD A GRAVITON BEAM EMITTER, DIDN'T THEY?
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
ARE THERE ANY OTHER AREAS IN THIS STRATUM WITH HUMANS?
THE INFORMATION WE HAVE IS INCOMPLETE. BUT THERE SHOULD BE SOME SETTLEMENTS LEFT.


DEEPER IN THE STRATUM, THERE IS A CYLINDRICAL STRUCTURE THAT FUNCTIONS INDEPENDENTLY OF THE CITY.
IT SHOULD BE VISIBLE FROM THIS AREA.
SPURT
WE SAW IT ON OUR WAY HERE.
IT IS FROM AN ERA WHEN HUMAN CONTACT WITH THE NETSPHERE WAS NORMAL.
THE INTERIOR WAS MADE TO HOUSE HUMANS. IT IS VERY OLD, BUT STILL FUNCTIONAL.
ARE THERE
PEOPLE IN IT ?

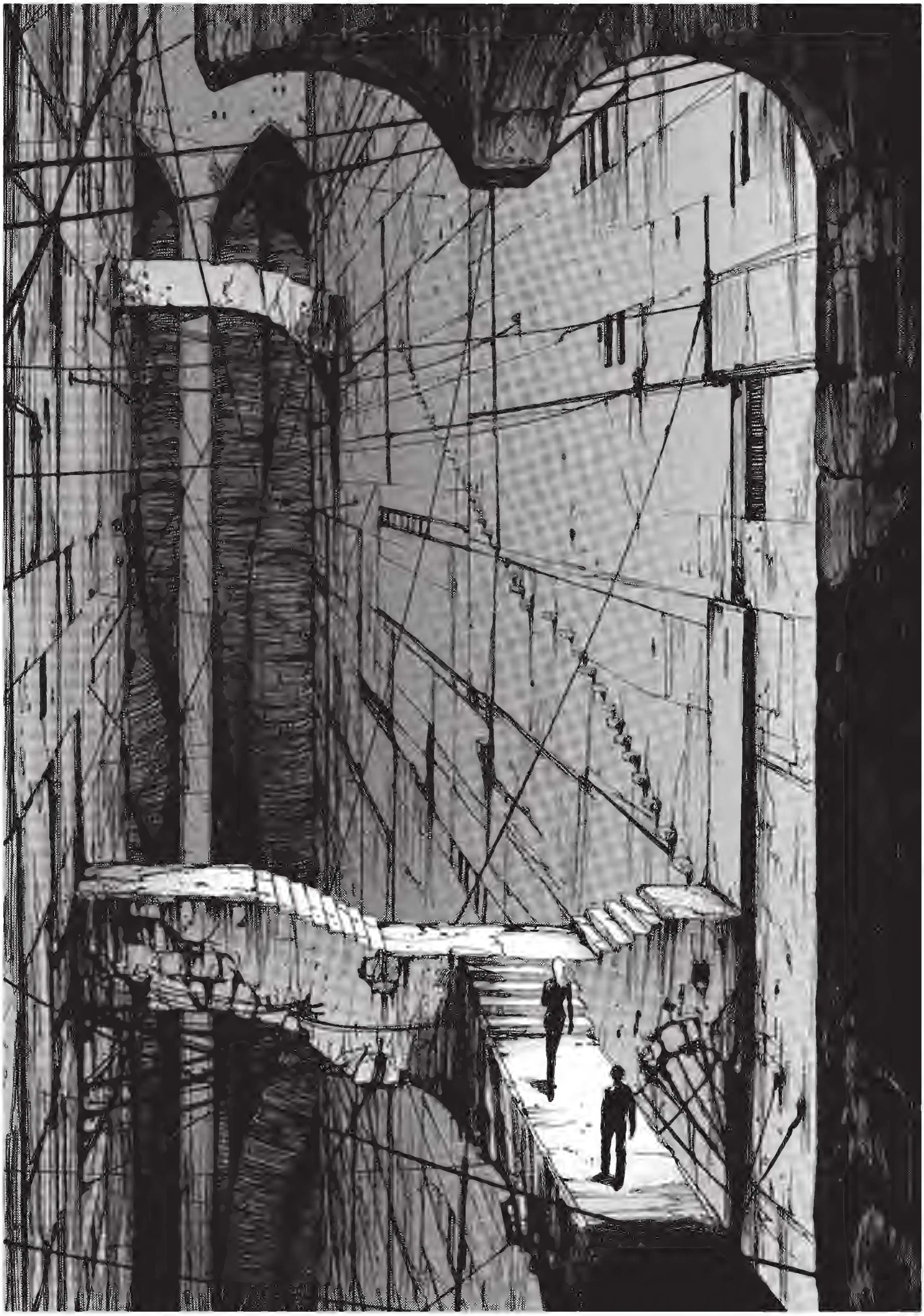

YES.
BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE NET TERMINAL GENES THEY HAD ARE STILL INTACT.
YOU DON'T KNOW... SO IS THERE A WAY TO FIND OUT?
BESIDES, IF THEY DID HAVE FUNCTIONAL TERMINAL GENES, THEY WOULD ALREADY BE CONNECTED TO THE NETSPHERE THEMSELVES.
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INSIDE THE STRUCTURE?
WITHOUT A COMMAND FROM A HUMAN WITH THE NET TERMINAL GENE... THE ADMINISTRATION CANNOT EXECUTE ACTIONS OF THAT SORT.
...
A PARADOX.

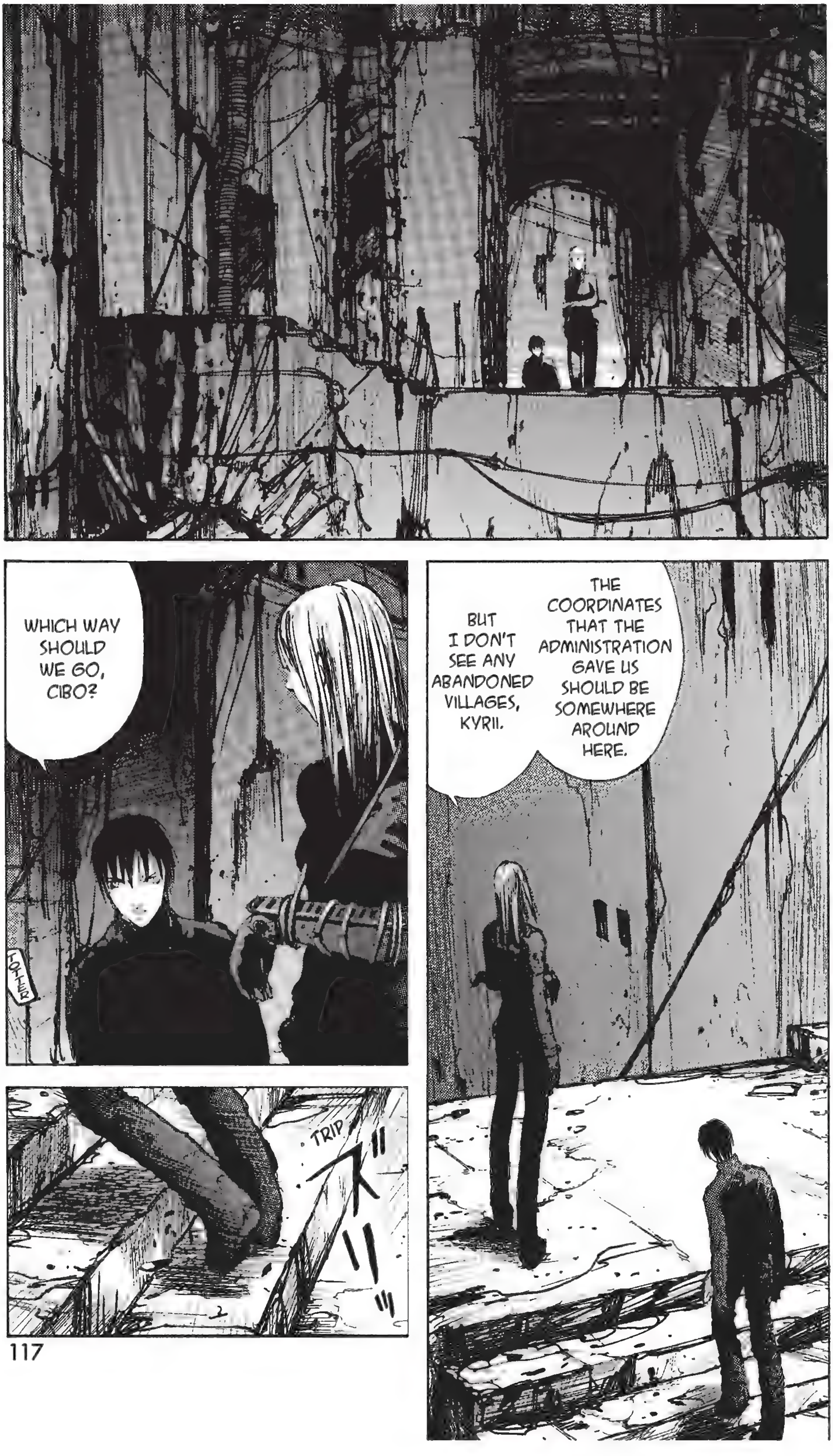

HOWEVER... IT IS POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO SEARCH FOR IT ON YOUR OWN.

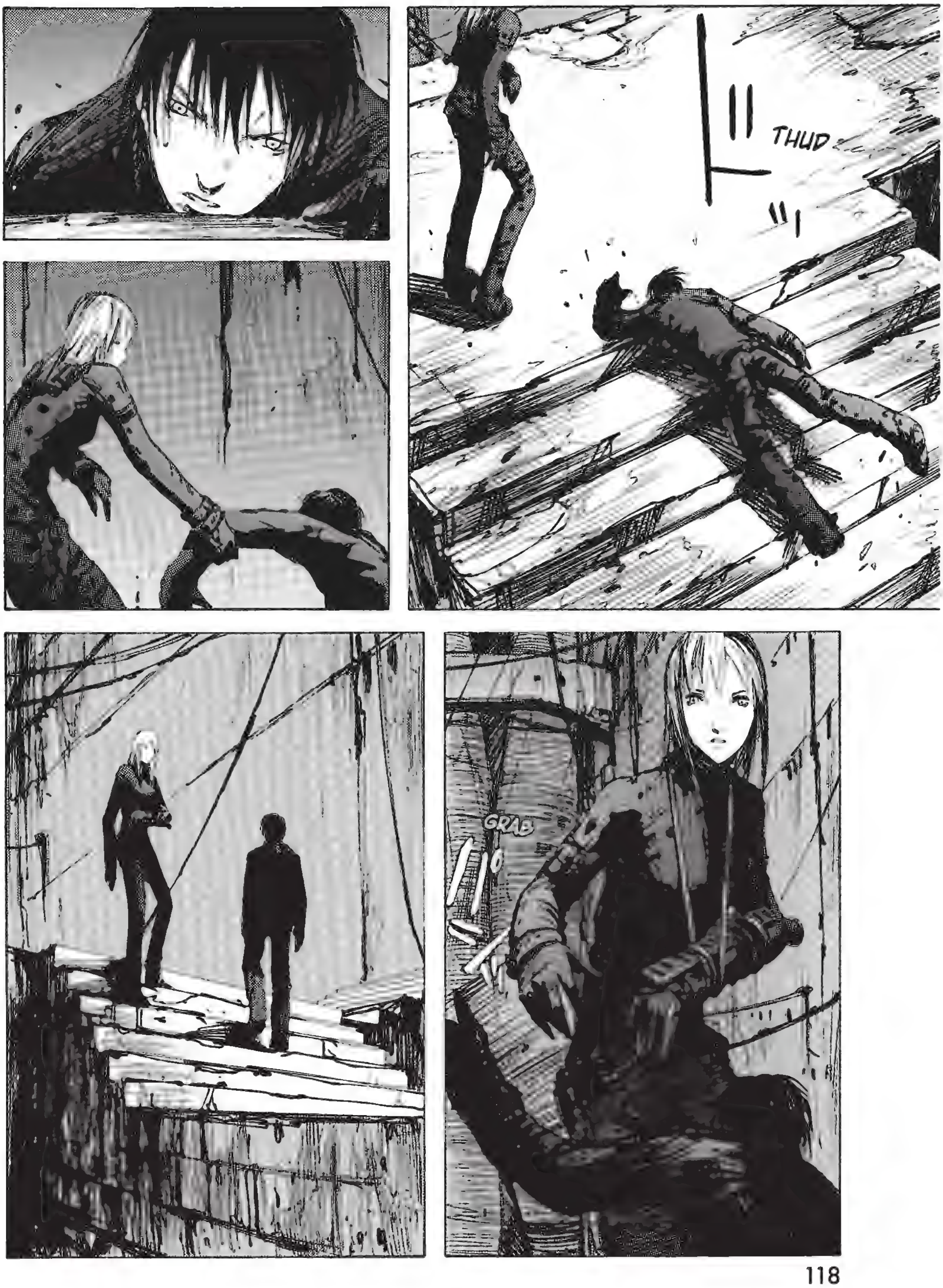
LOG.12:::END

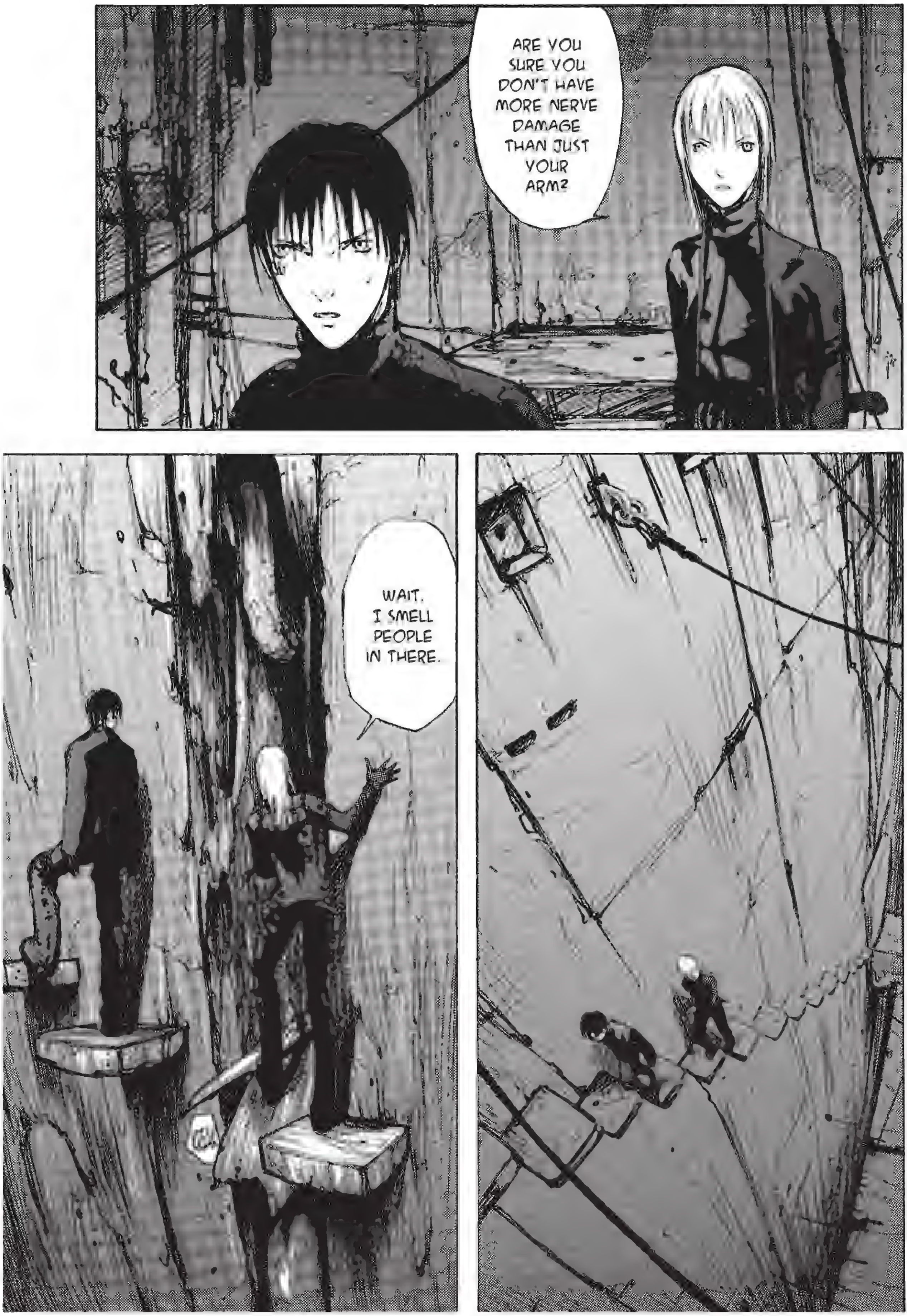
::LOG.13::

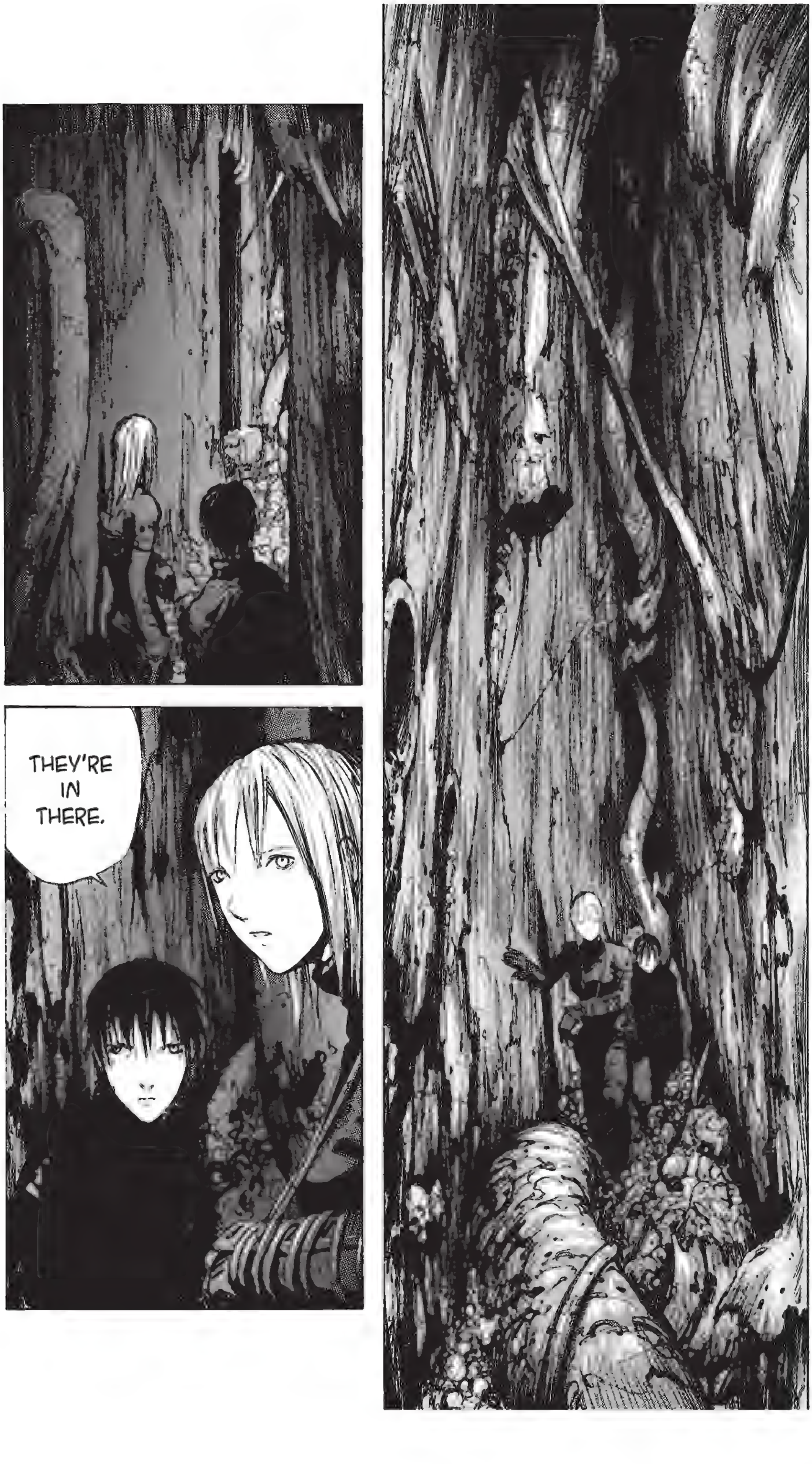
ELECTRO-FISHERS

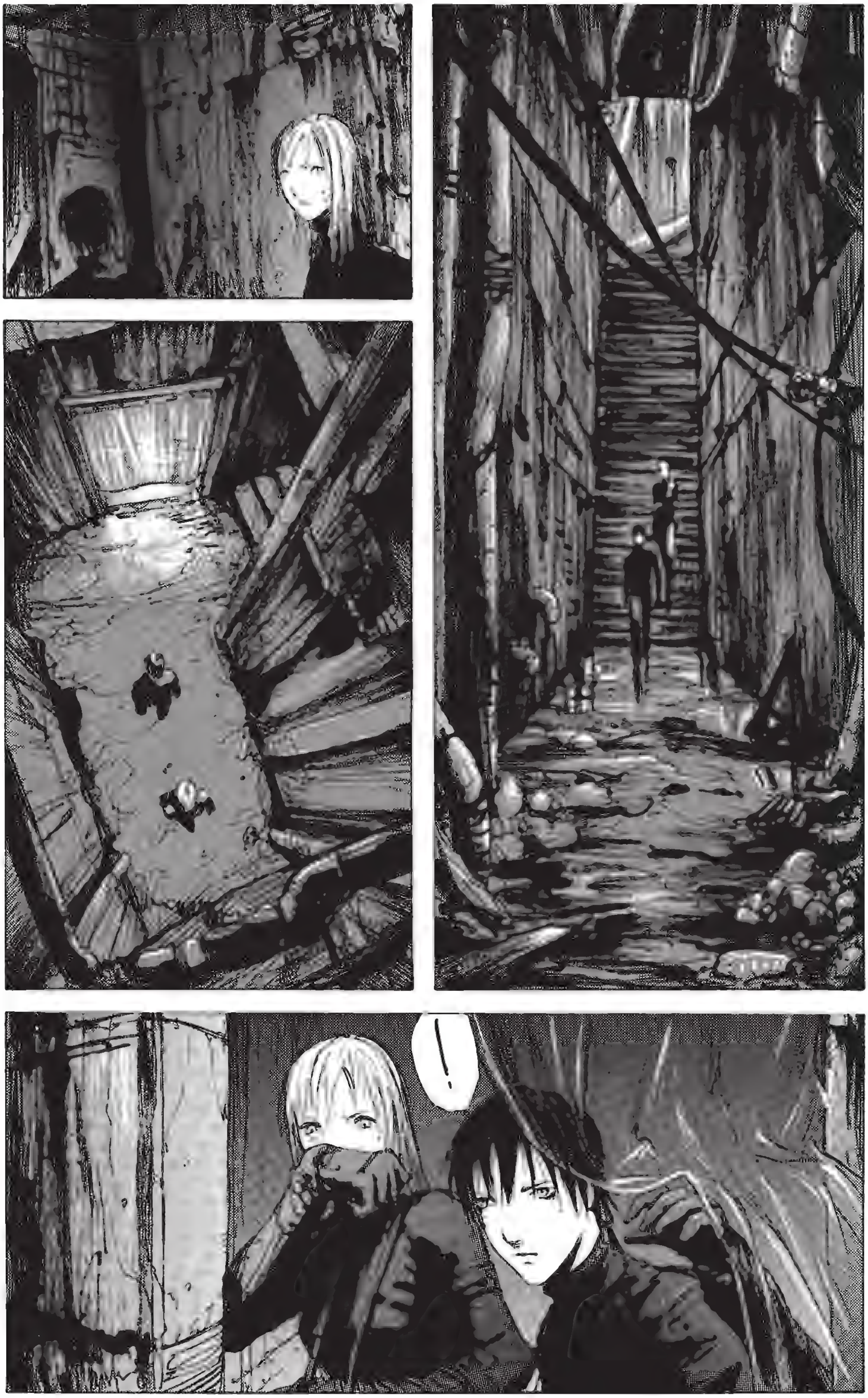


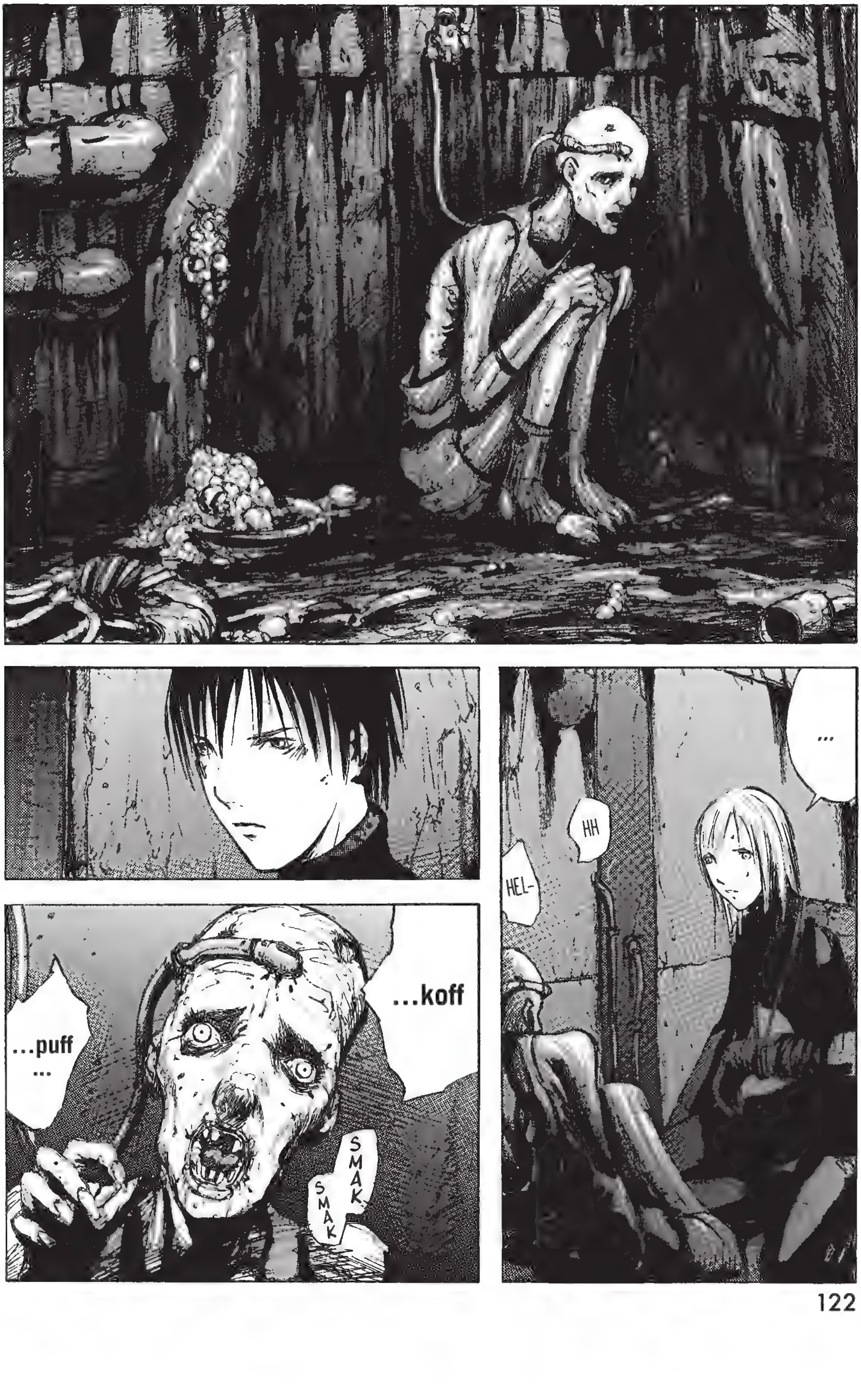

THE COORDINATES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION GAVE US SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
BUT I DON'T SEE ANY ABANDONED VILLAGES, KYRII.
WHICH WAY SHOULD WE GO, CIBO?
TOTTER
TRIP

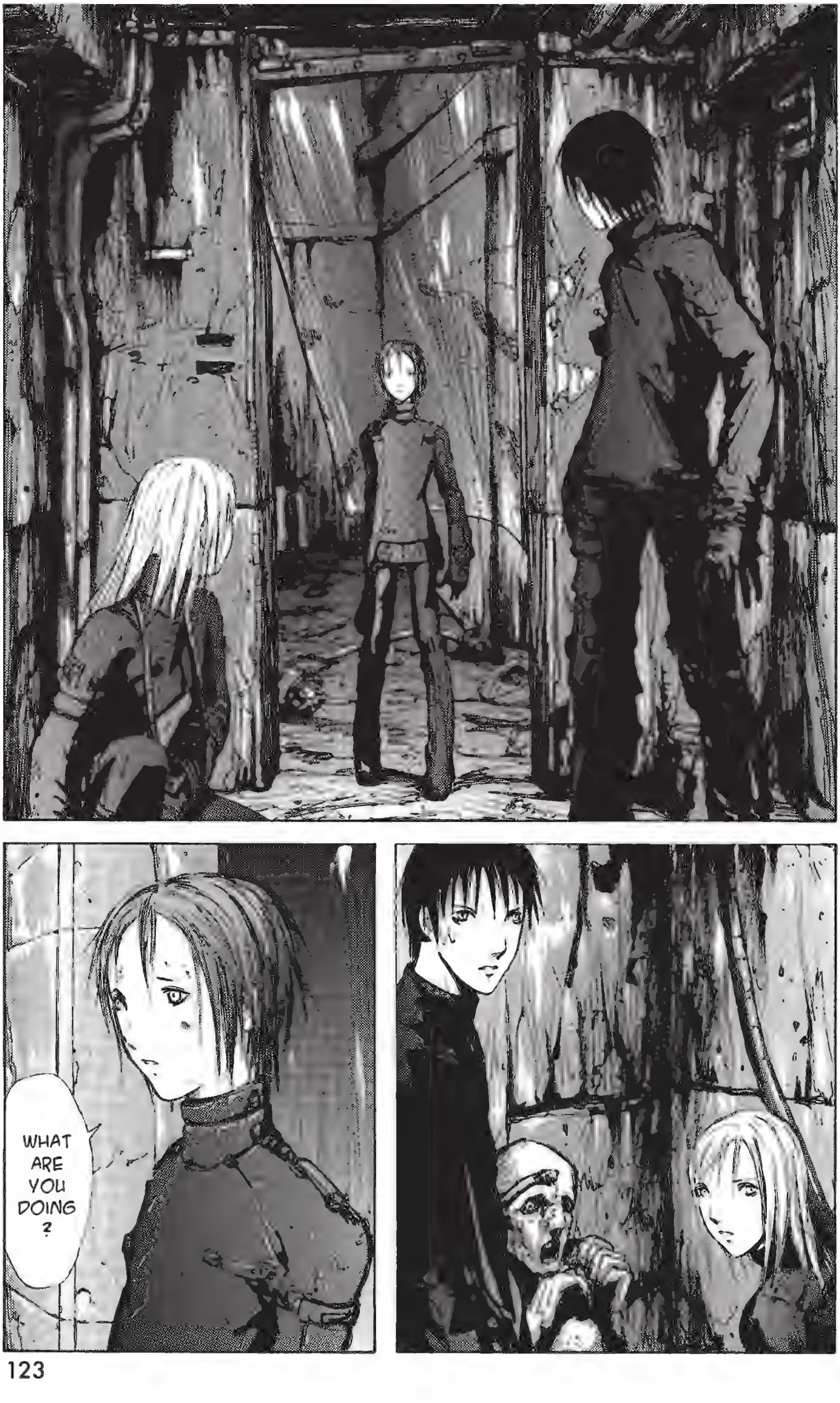

THUD
GRAB

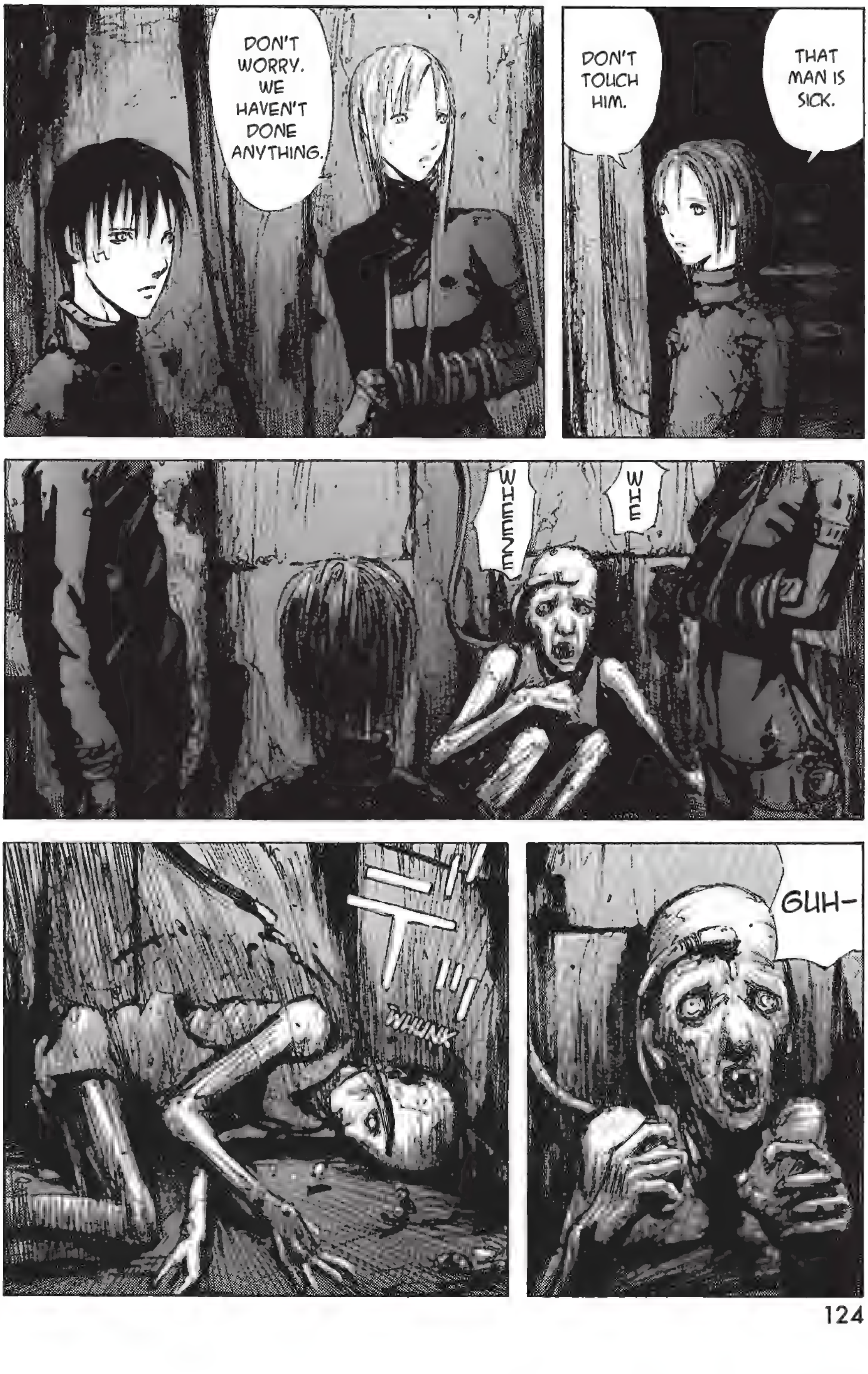

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T HAVE MORE NERVE DAMAGE THAN JUST YOUR ARM?
WAIT. I SMELL PEOPLE IN THERE.

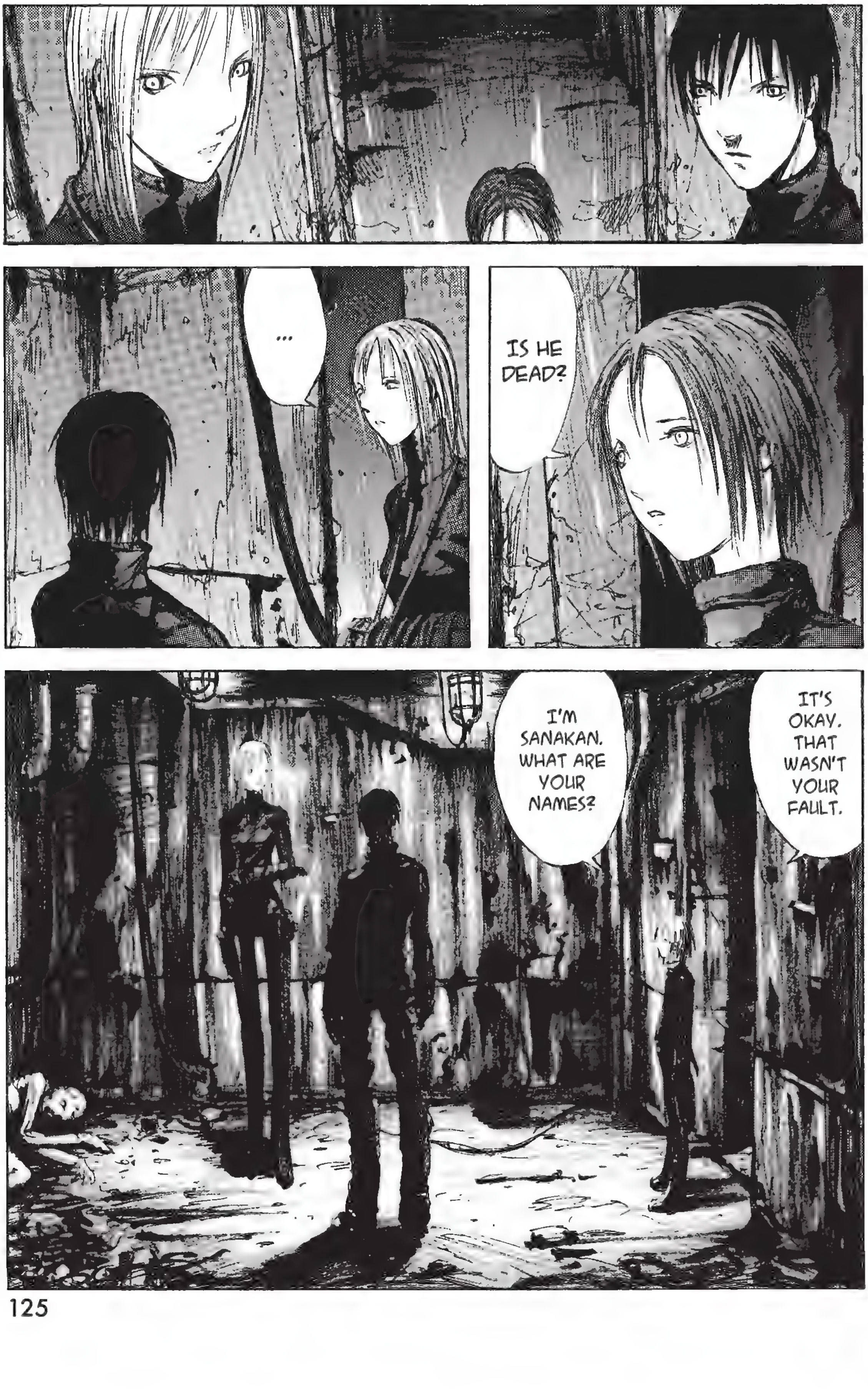

THEY'RE IN THERE.

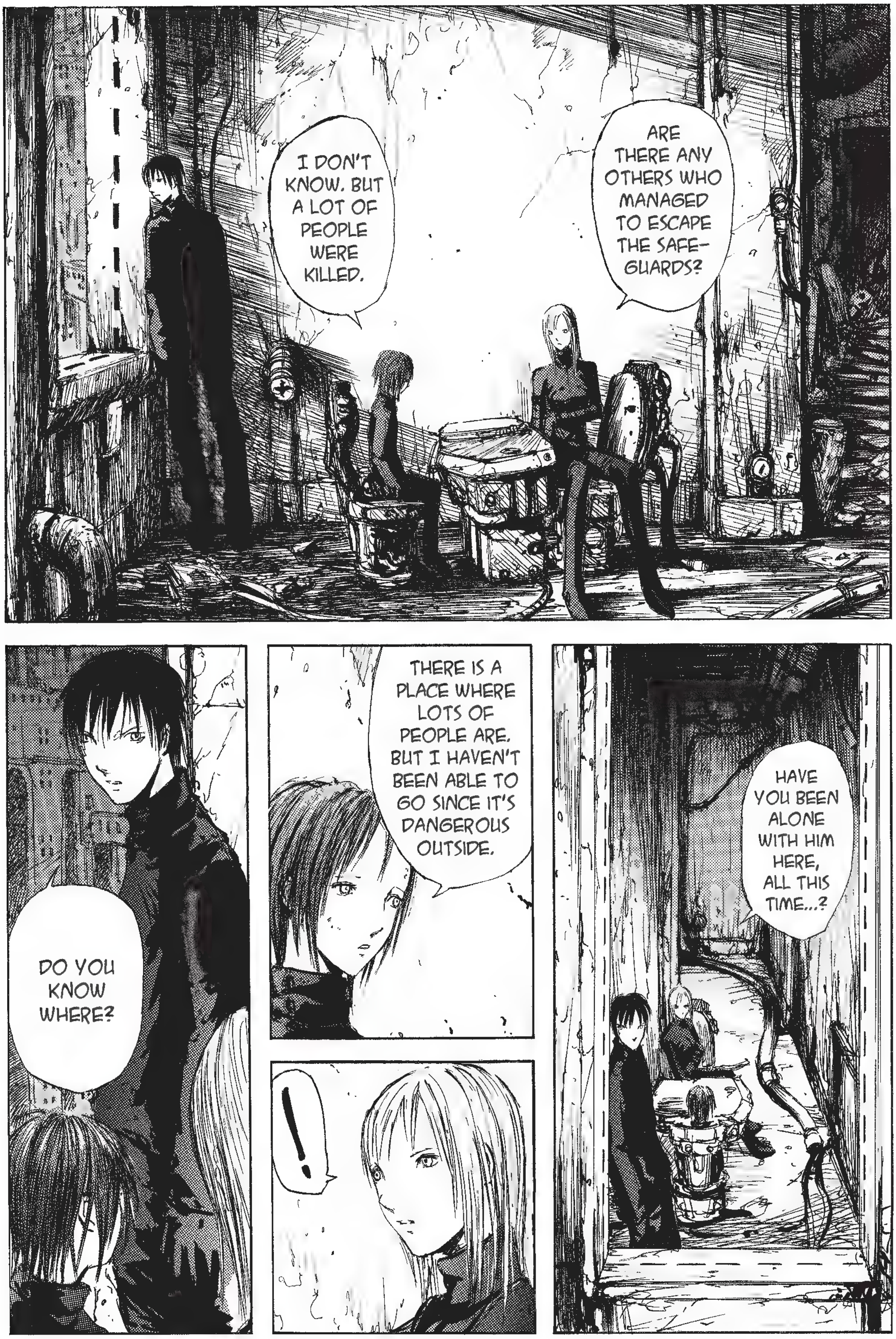


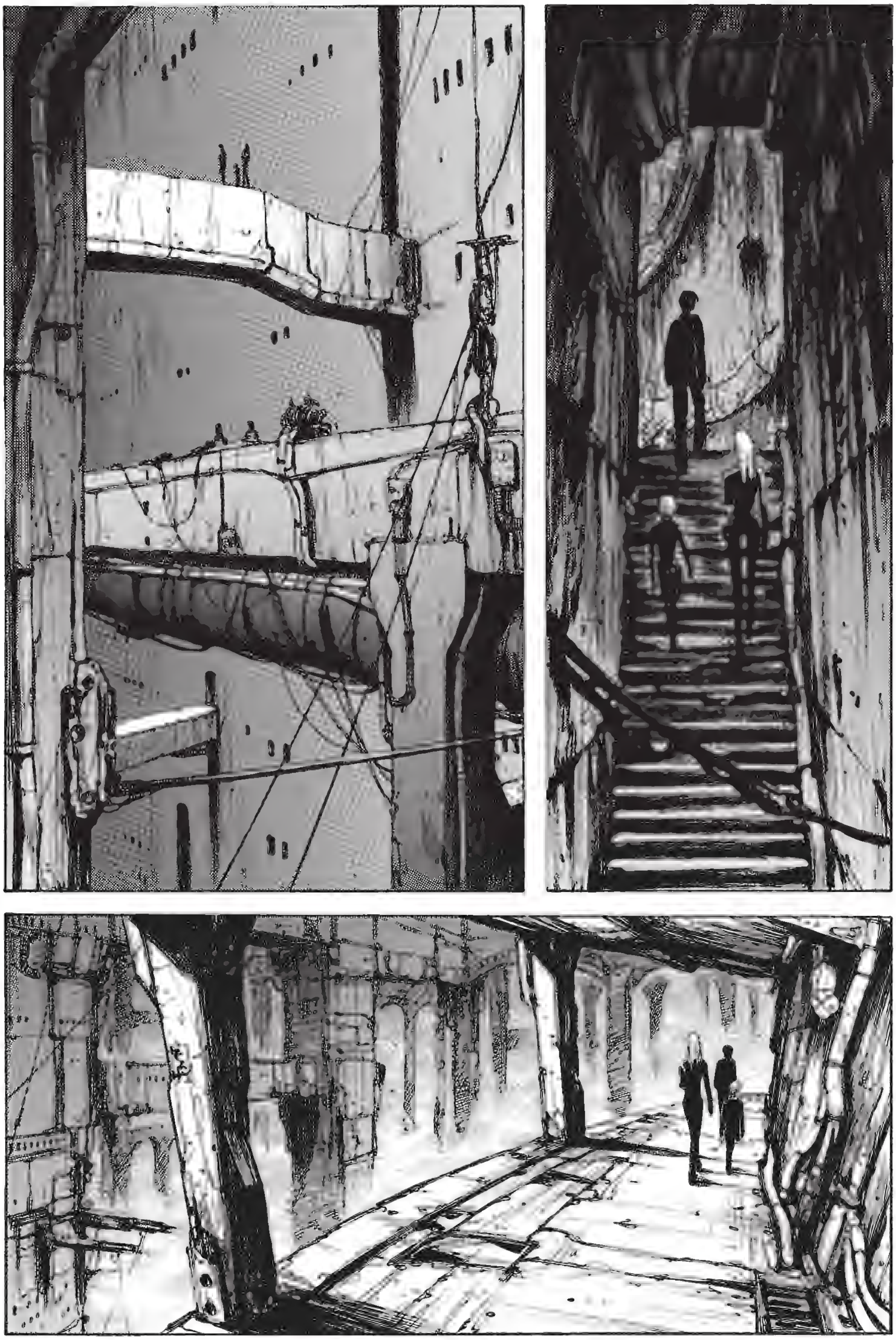

...
HH
HEL-
...koff
...puff ...
SMAK SMAK

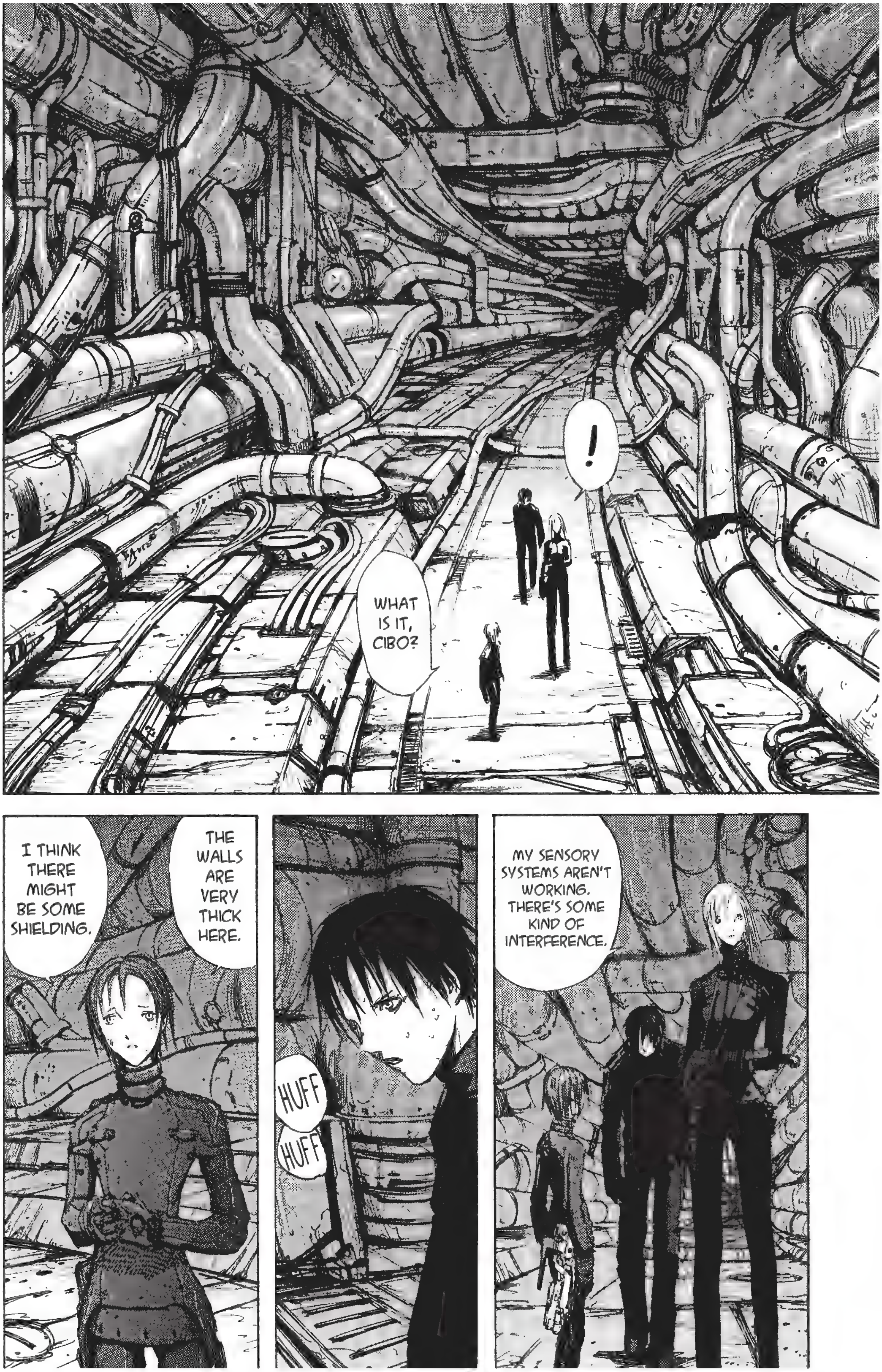

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

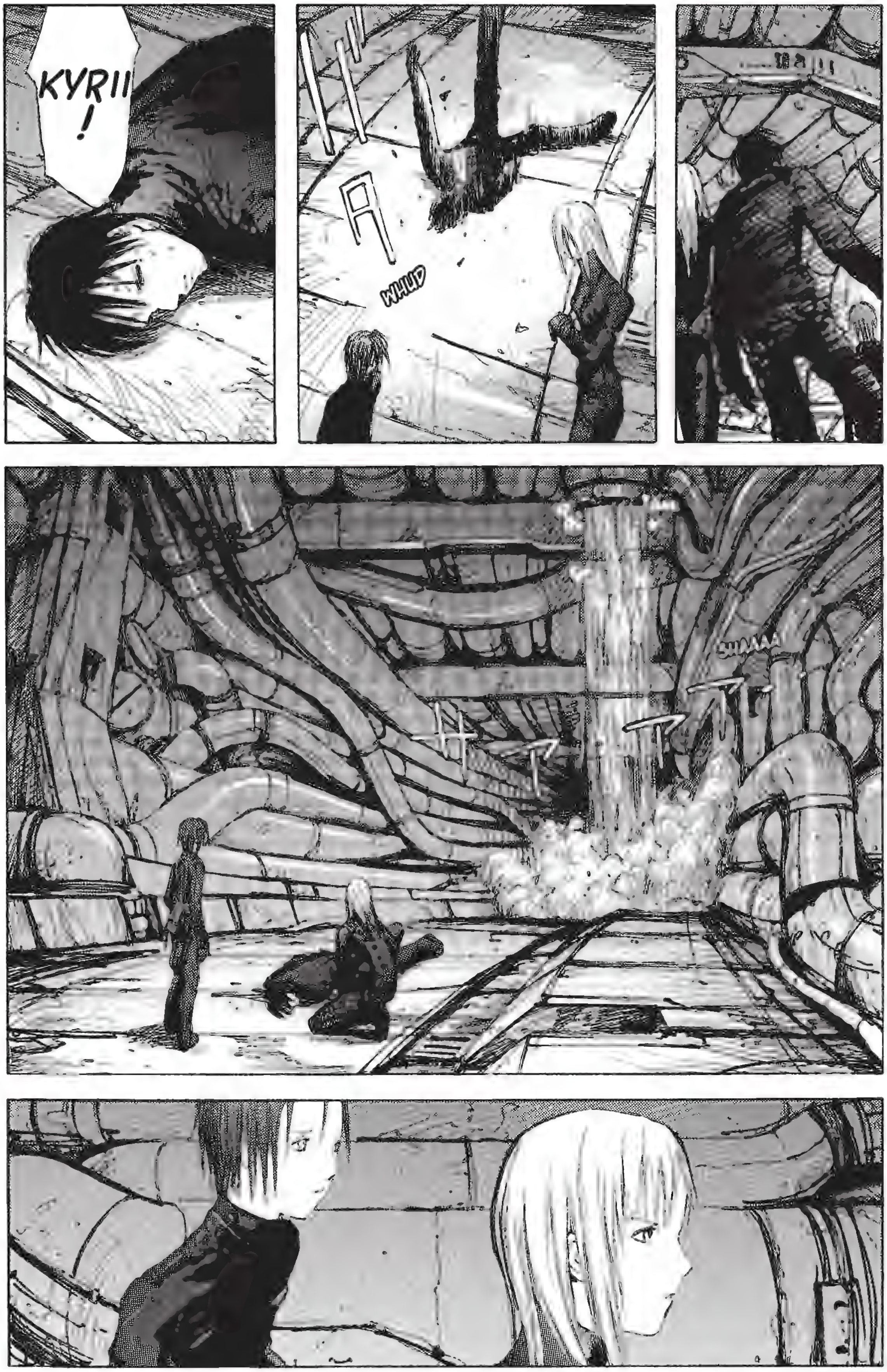

THAT MAN IS SICK.
DON'T TOUCH HIM.
DON'T WORRY. WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.
WHE
WHEEZE
GUH-
ドッ
WHUNK

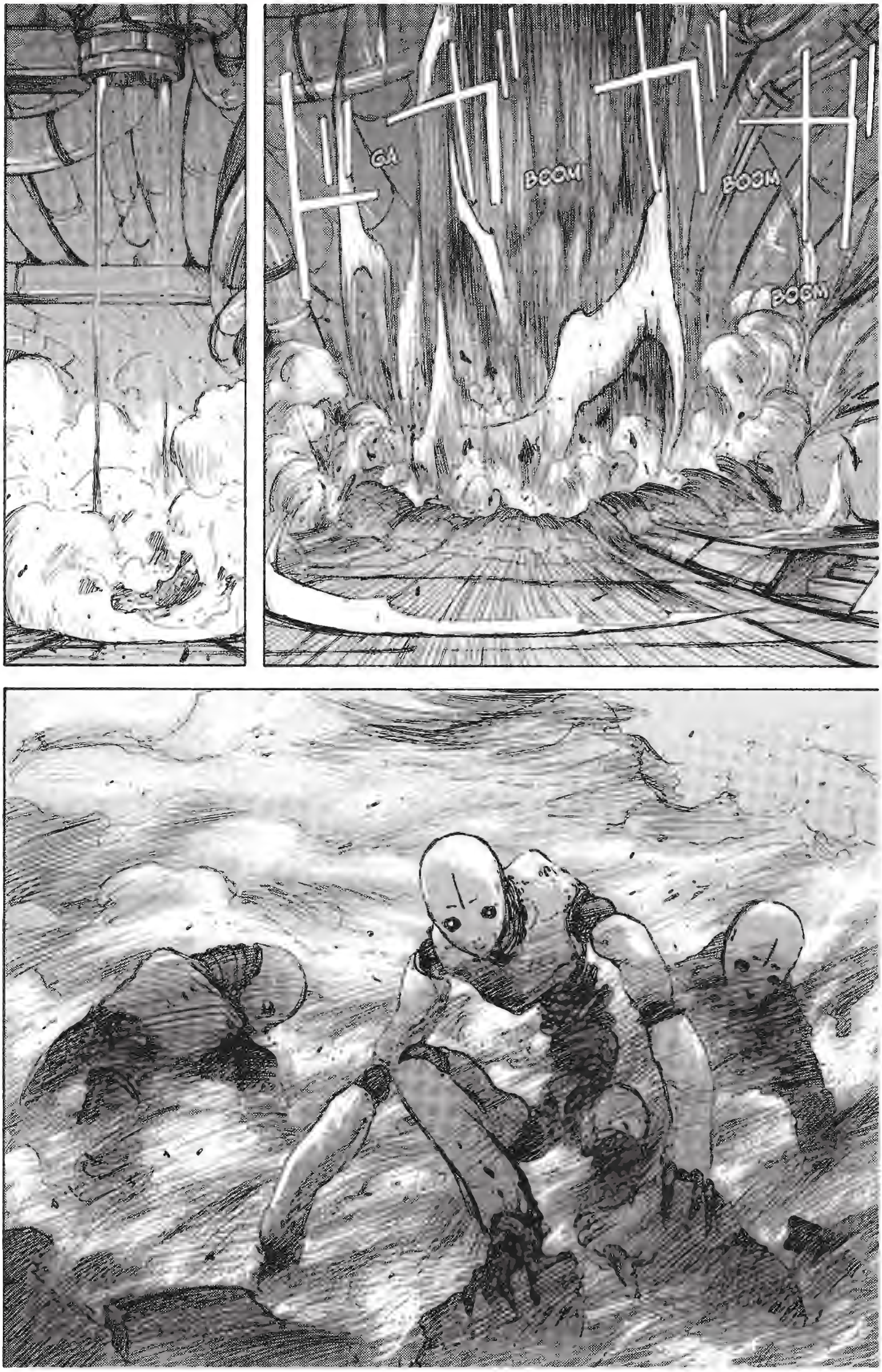

IS HE DEAD?
...
IT'S OKAY. THAT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
I'M SANAKAN. WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES?

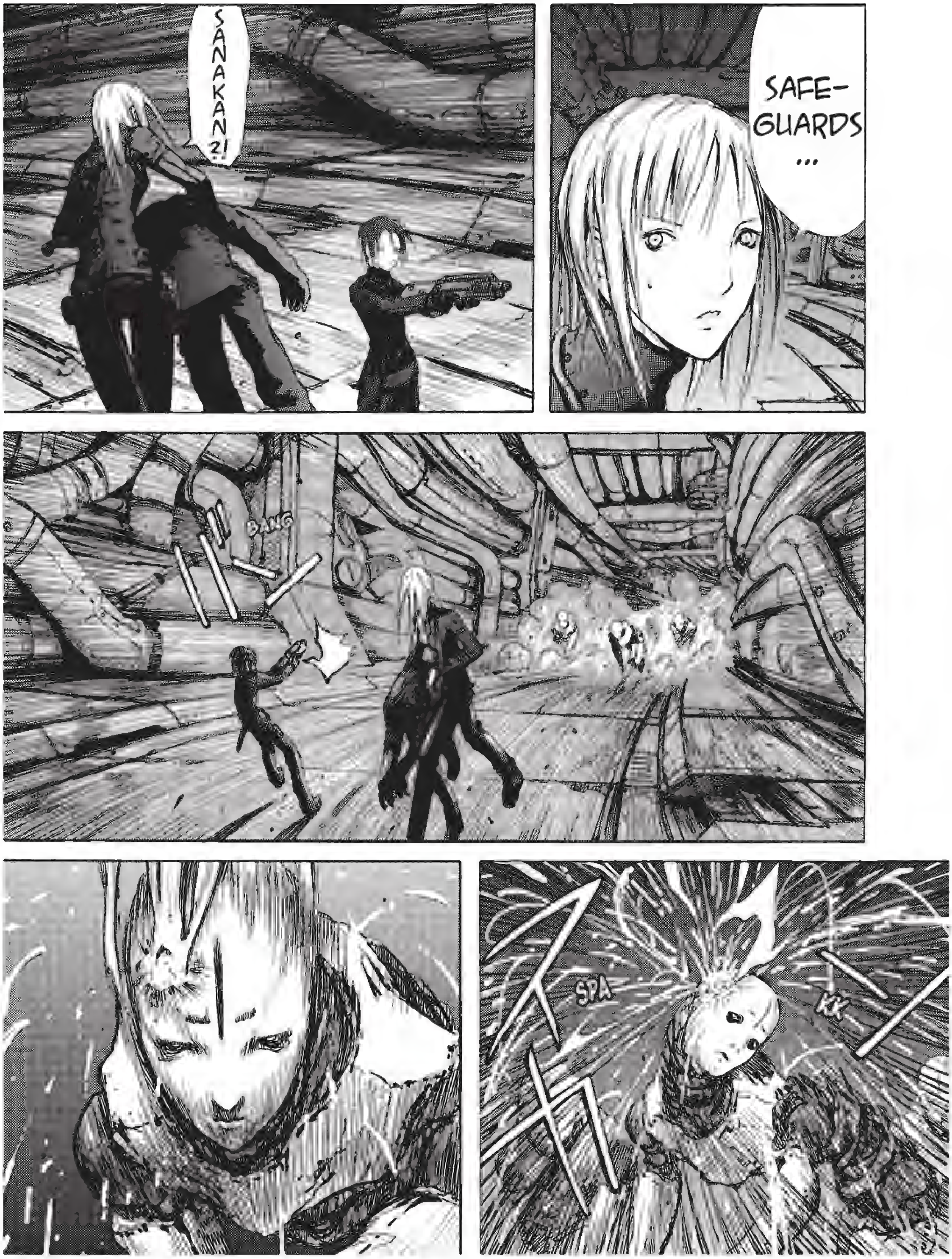

ARE THERE ANY OTHERS WHO MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE SAFE-GUARDS?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE KILLED.
HAVE YOU BEEN ALONE WITH HIM HERE, ALL THIS TIME...?
THERE IS A PLACE WHERE LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE. BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GO SINCE IT'S DANGEROUS OUTSIDE.
!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE?

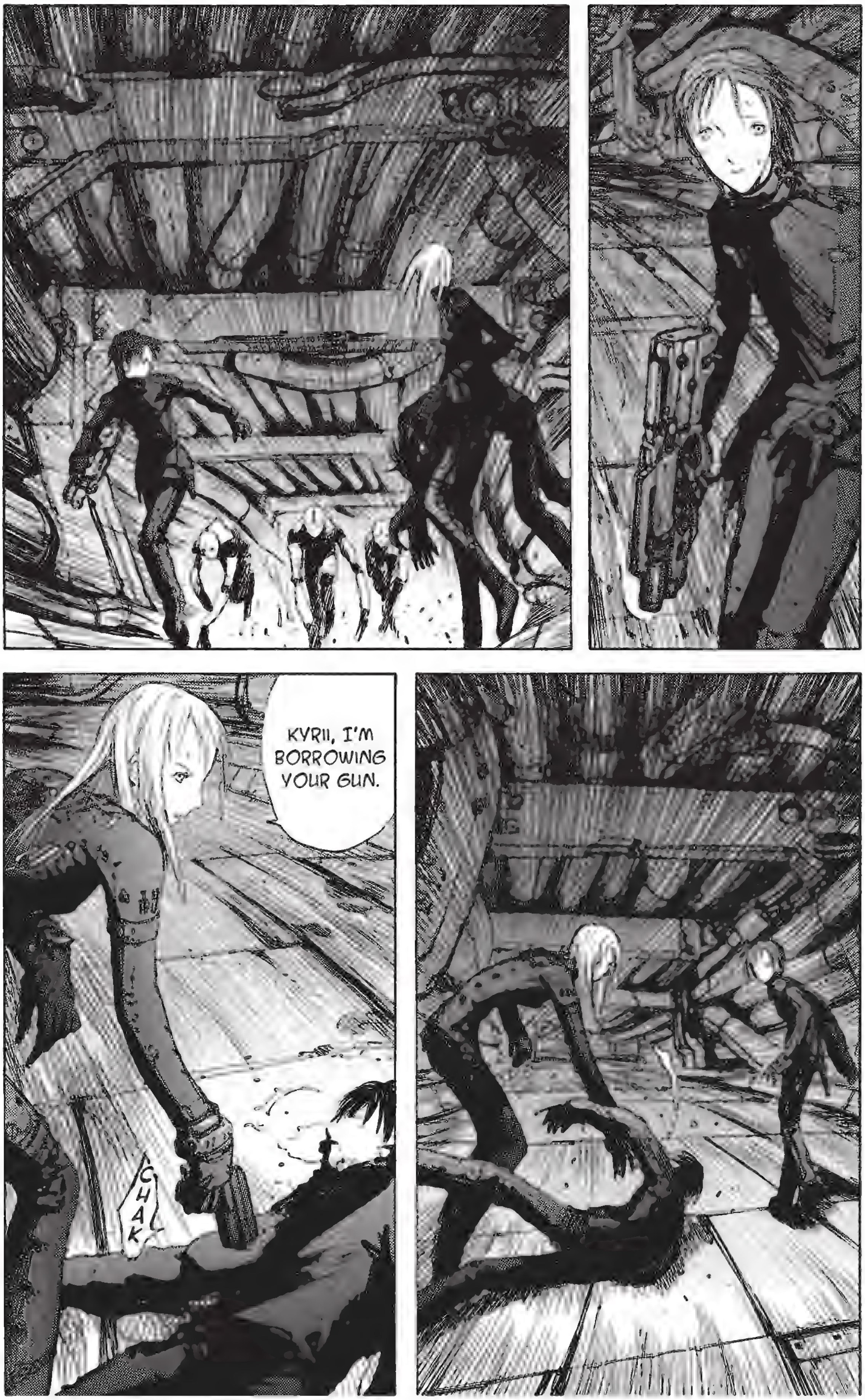


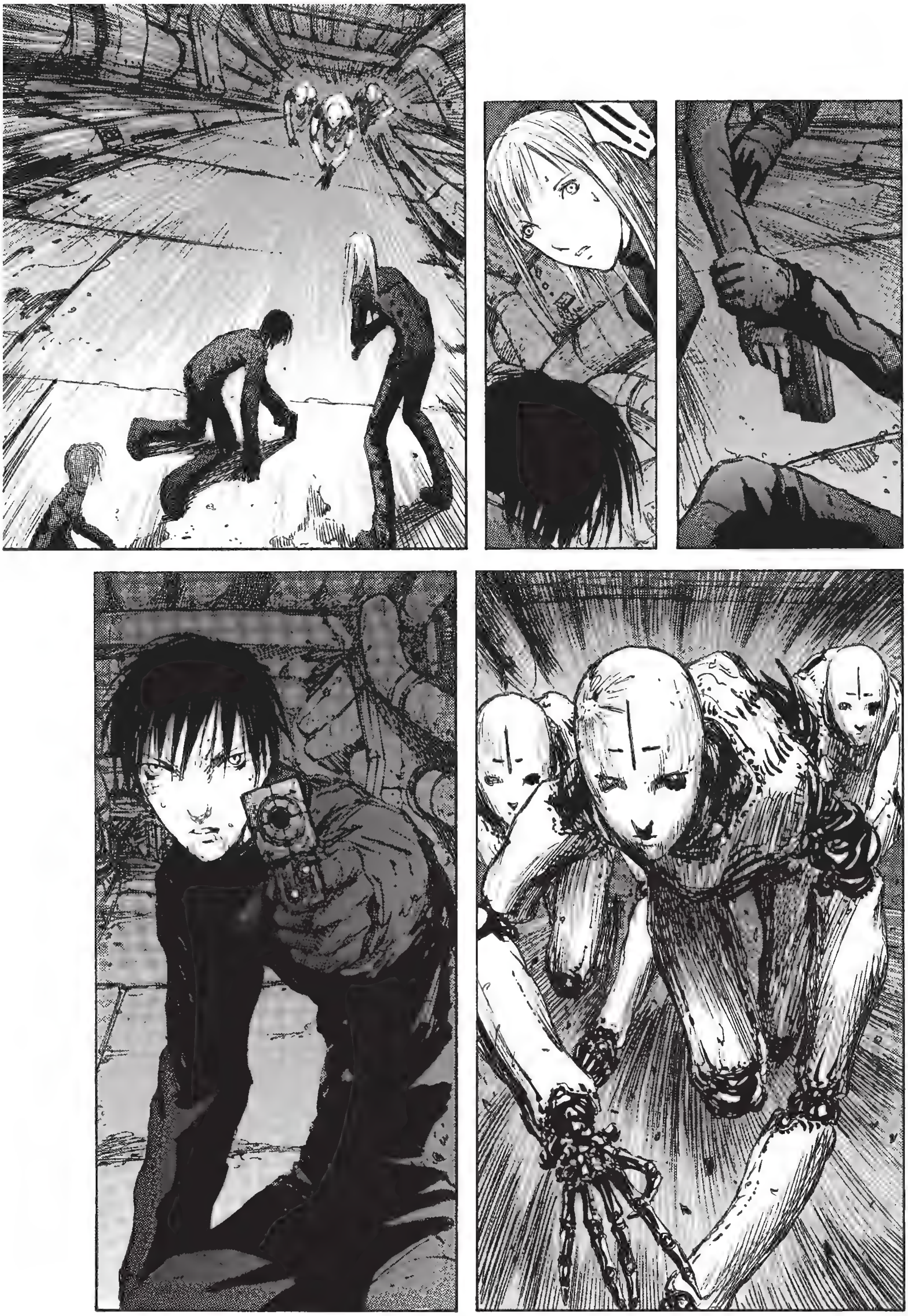

!
WHAT IS IT, CIBO?
MY SENSORY SYSTEMS AREN'T WORKING. THERE'S SOME KIND OF INTERFERENCE.
HUFF
HUFF
THE WALLS ARE VERY THICK HERE.
I THINK THERE MIGHT BE SOME SHIELDING.

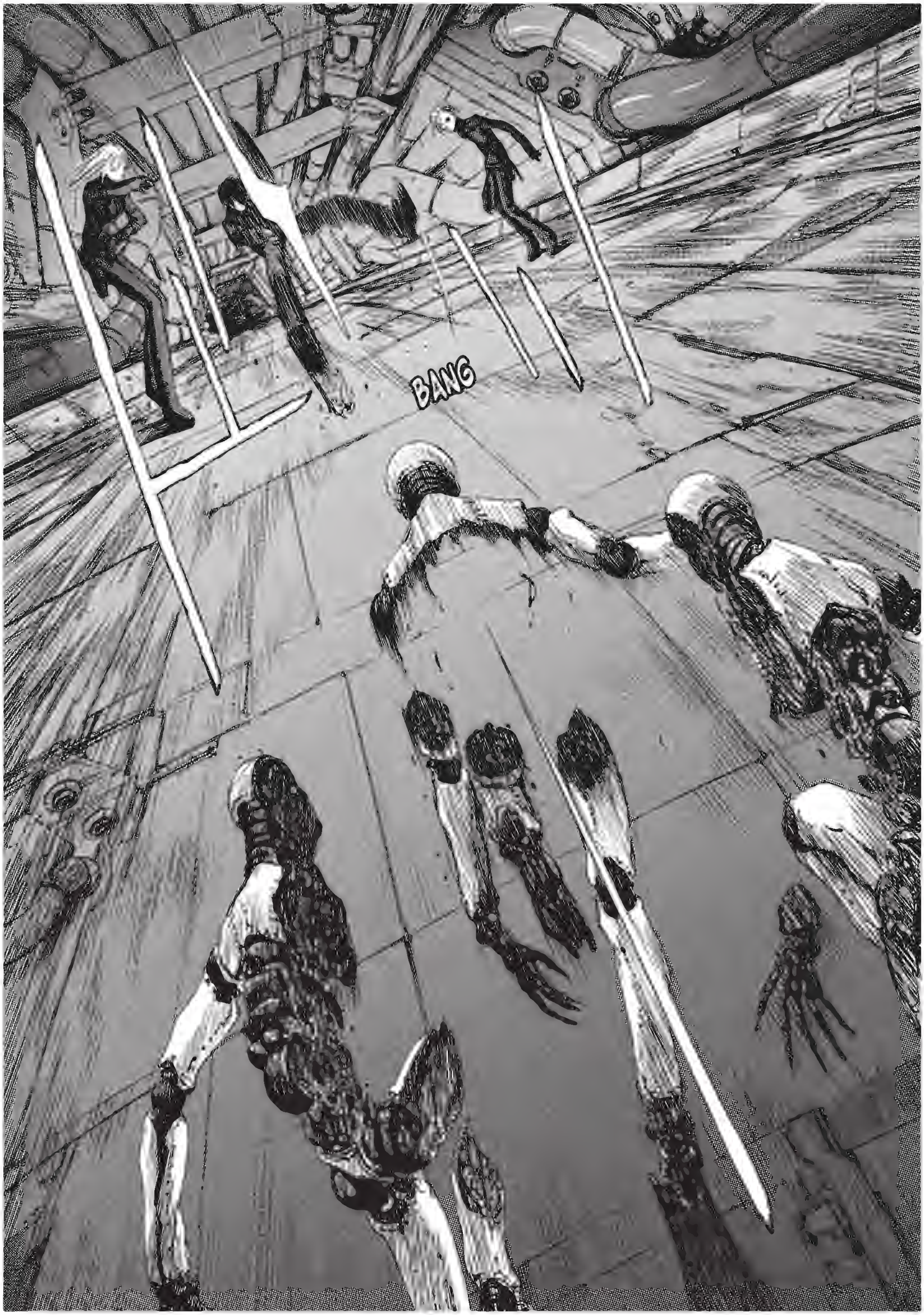

KYRII
!
WHUD
SHAAAA

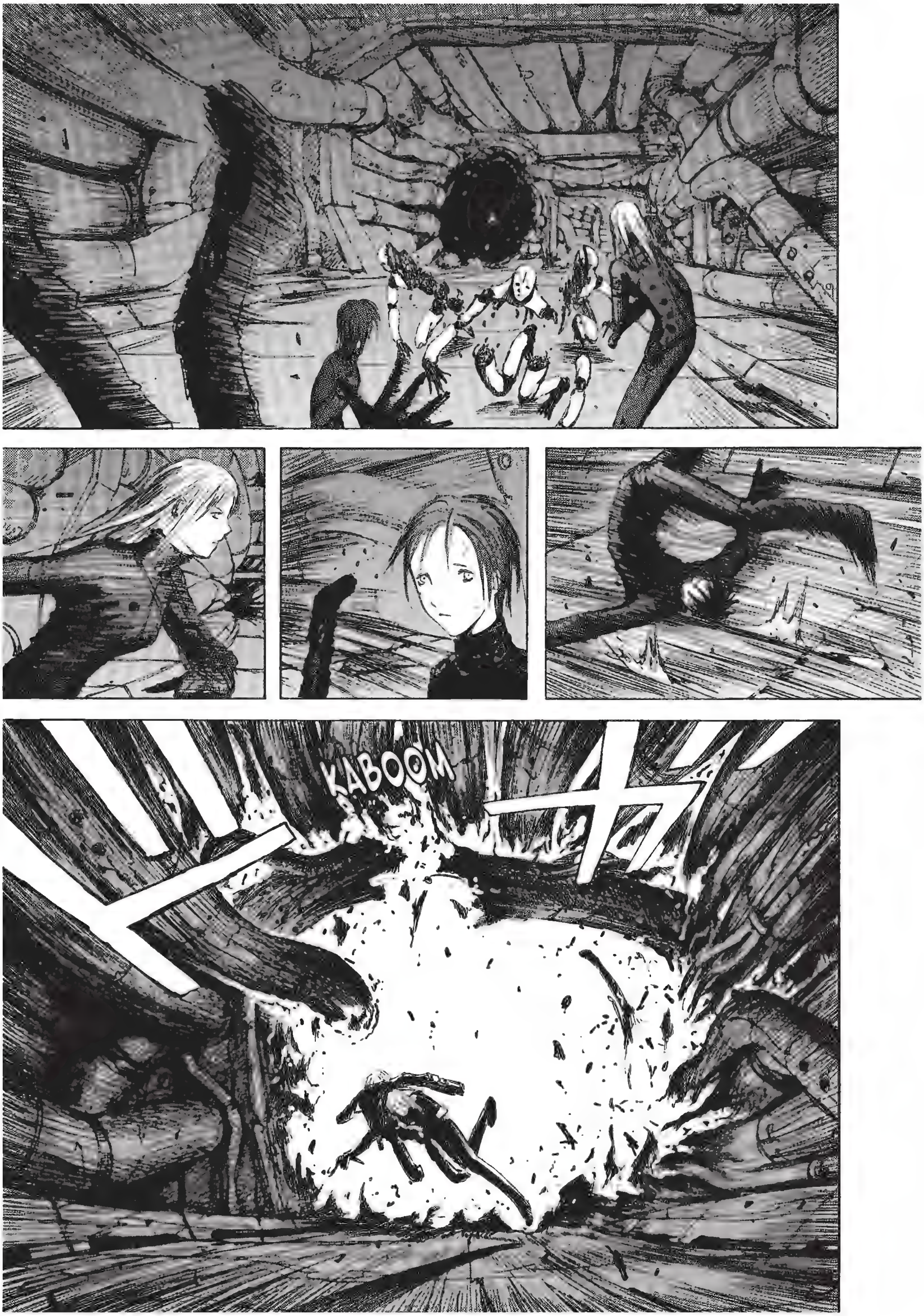

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
GA

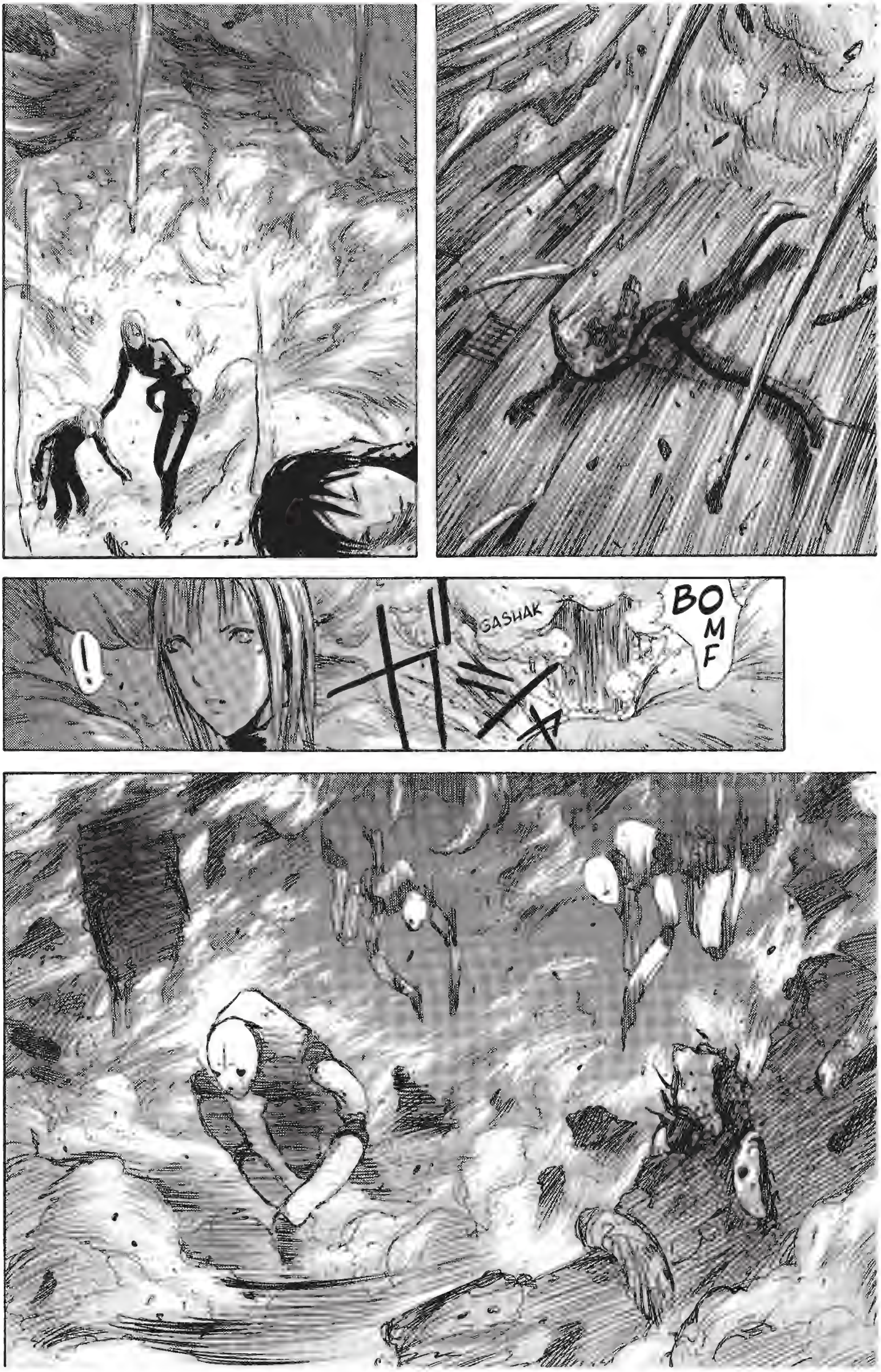

SAFE-GUARDS ...
SANAKAN?!
BANG
KK
SPA

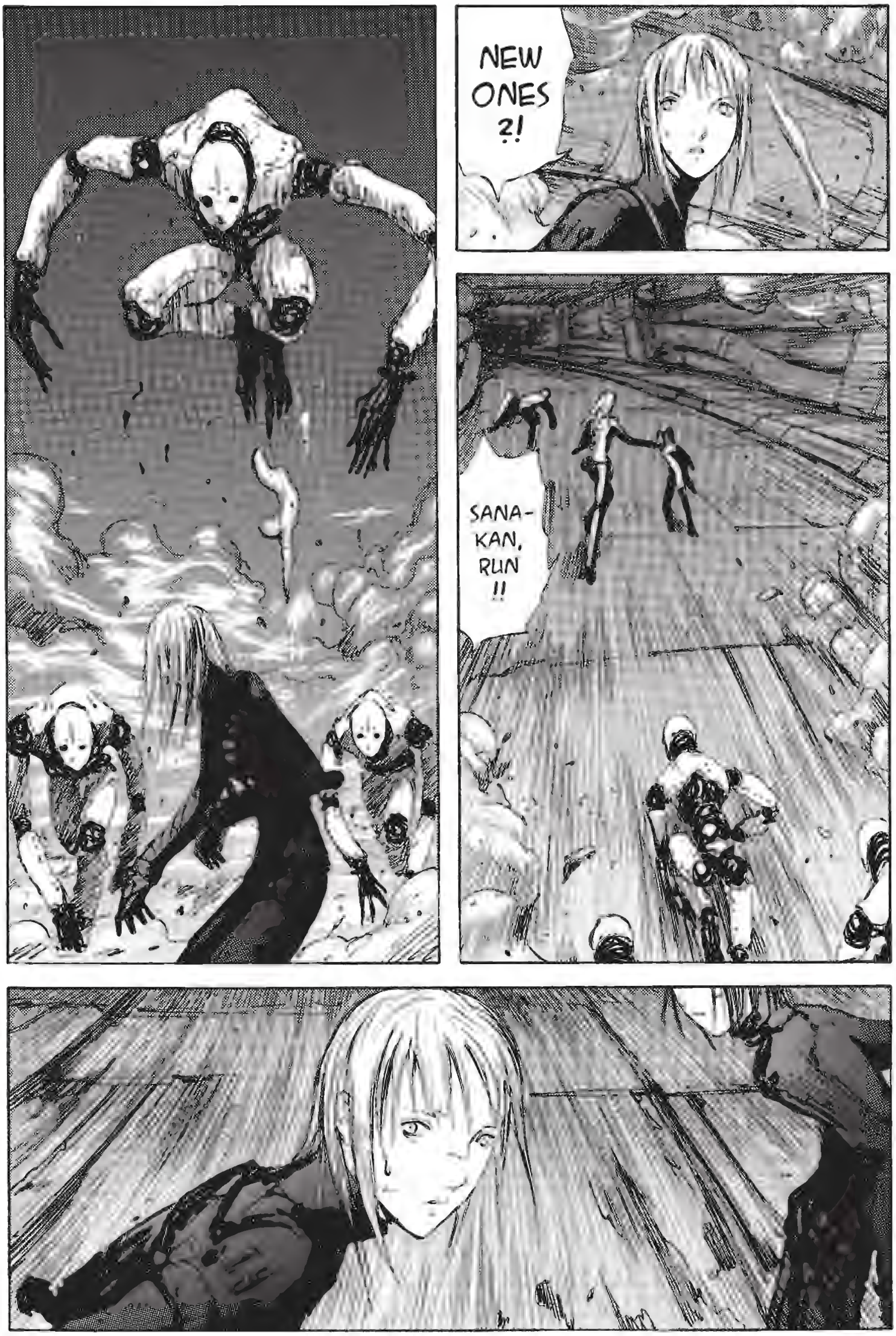

KYRII, I'M BORROWING YOUR GUN.
CHAK

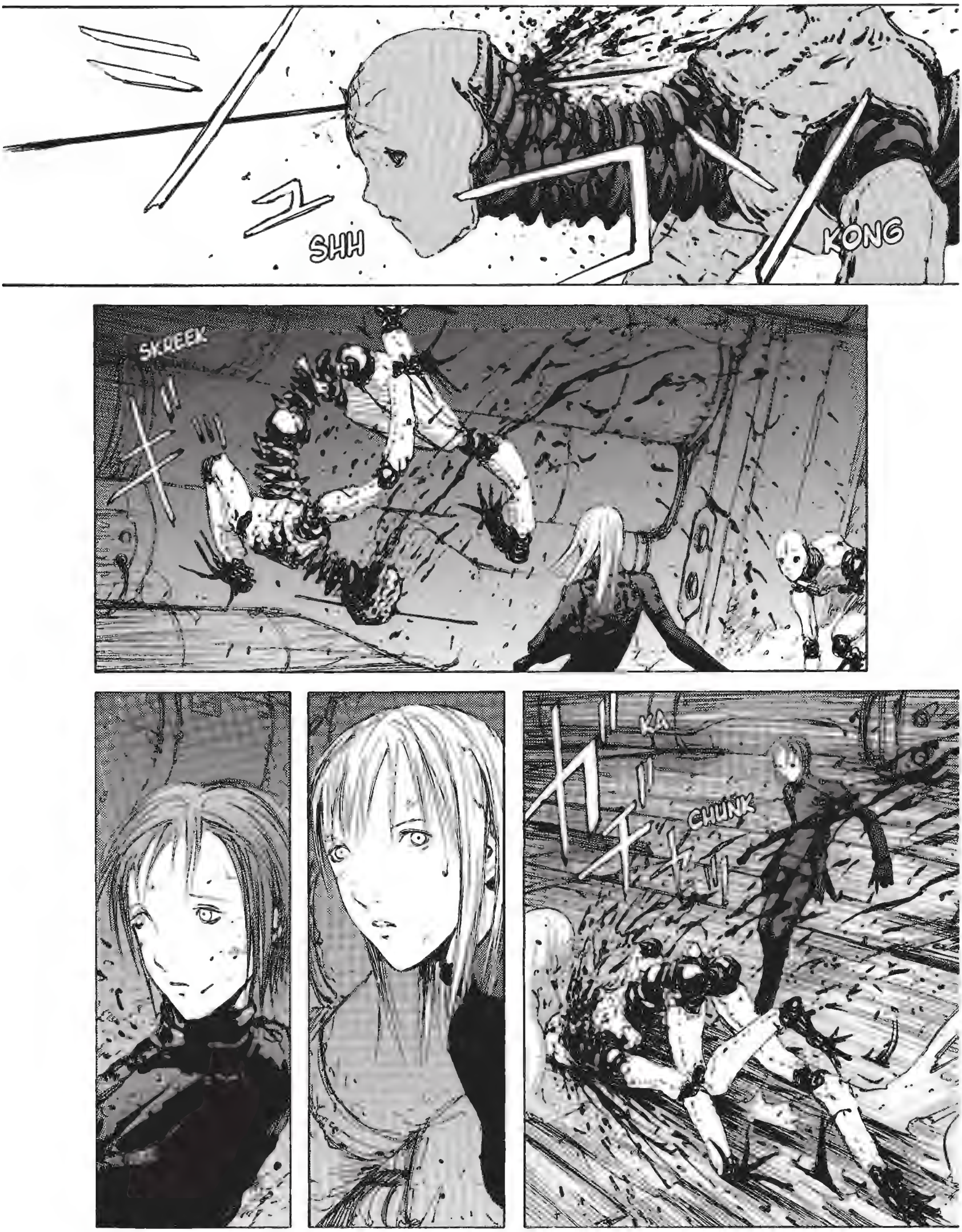


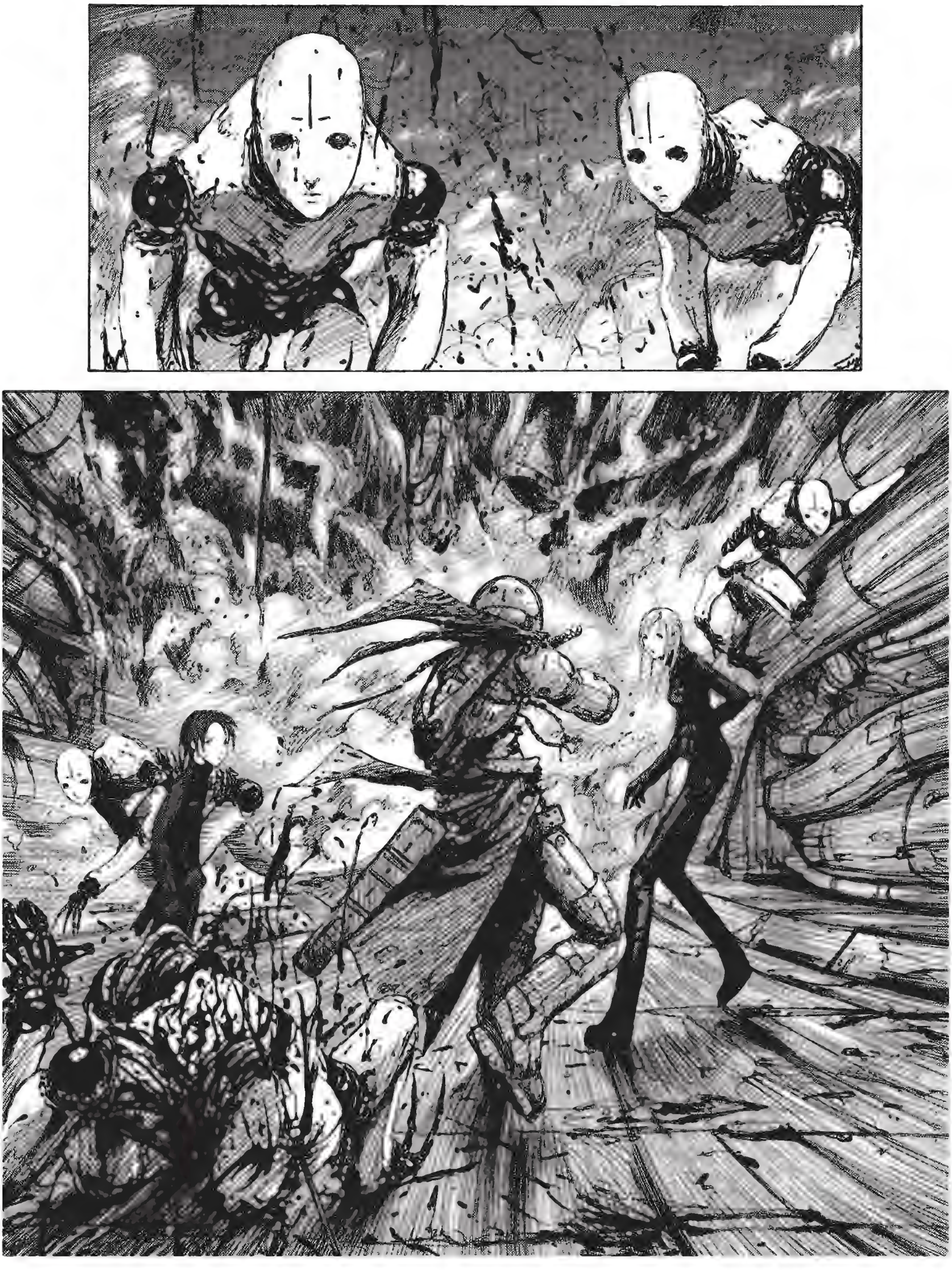

BANG

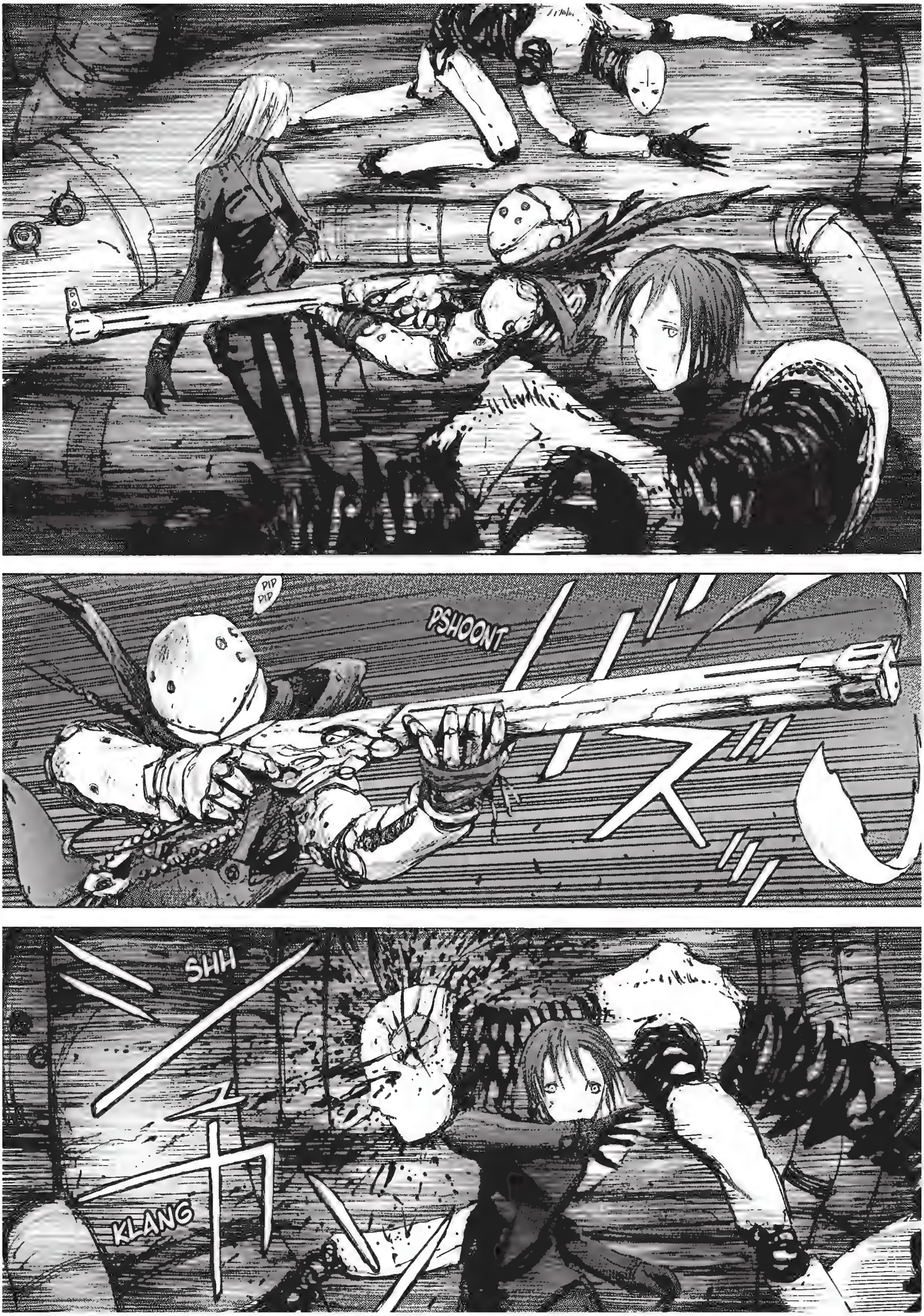

KABOOM

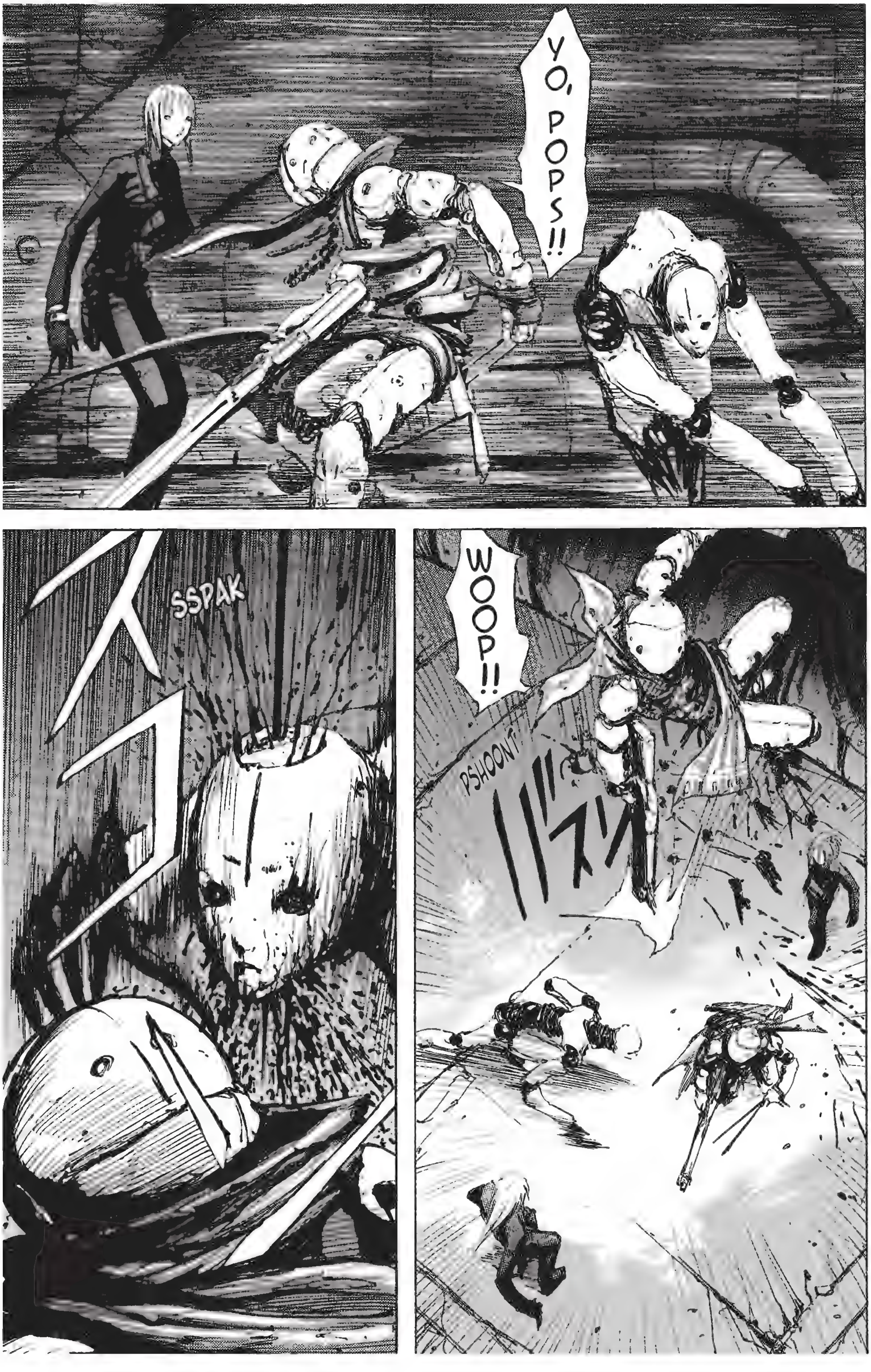

BOMF
GASHAK
!

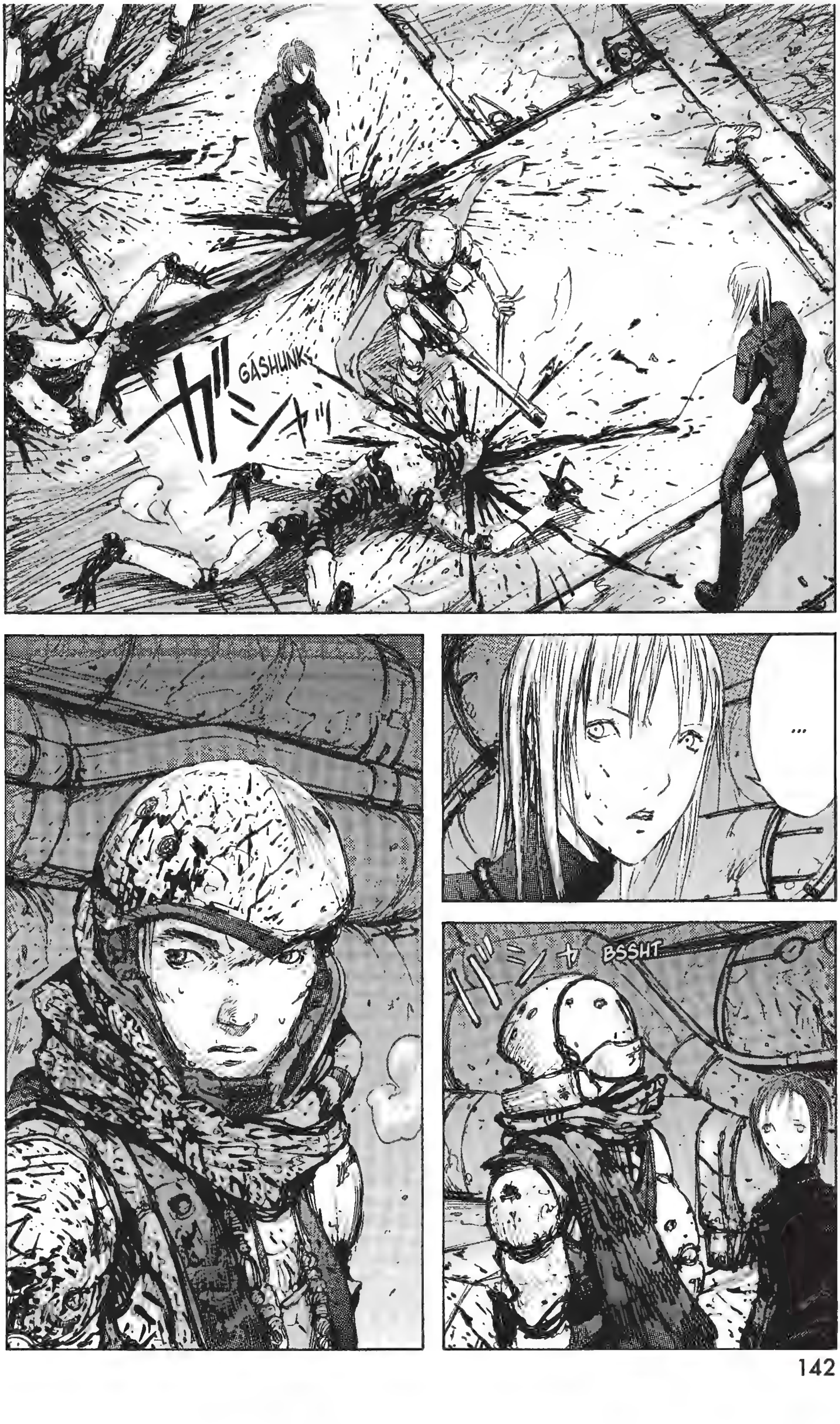

NEW ONES ?!
SANA-KAN, RUN !!

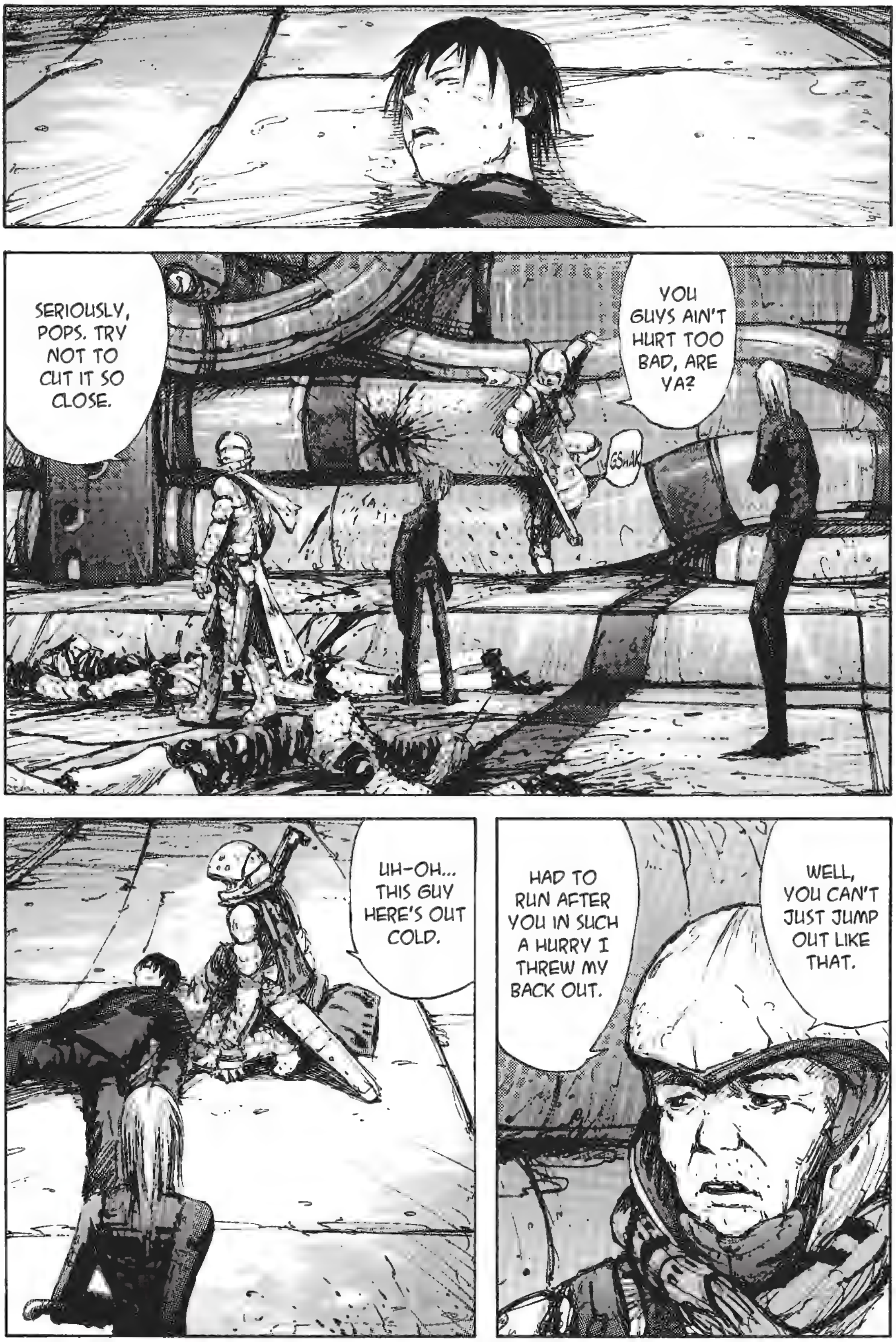

KONG
SHH
SKREEK
KA
CHUNK

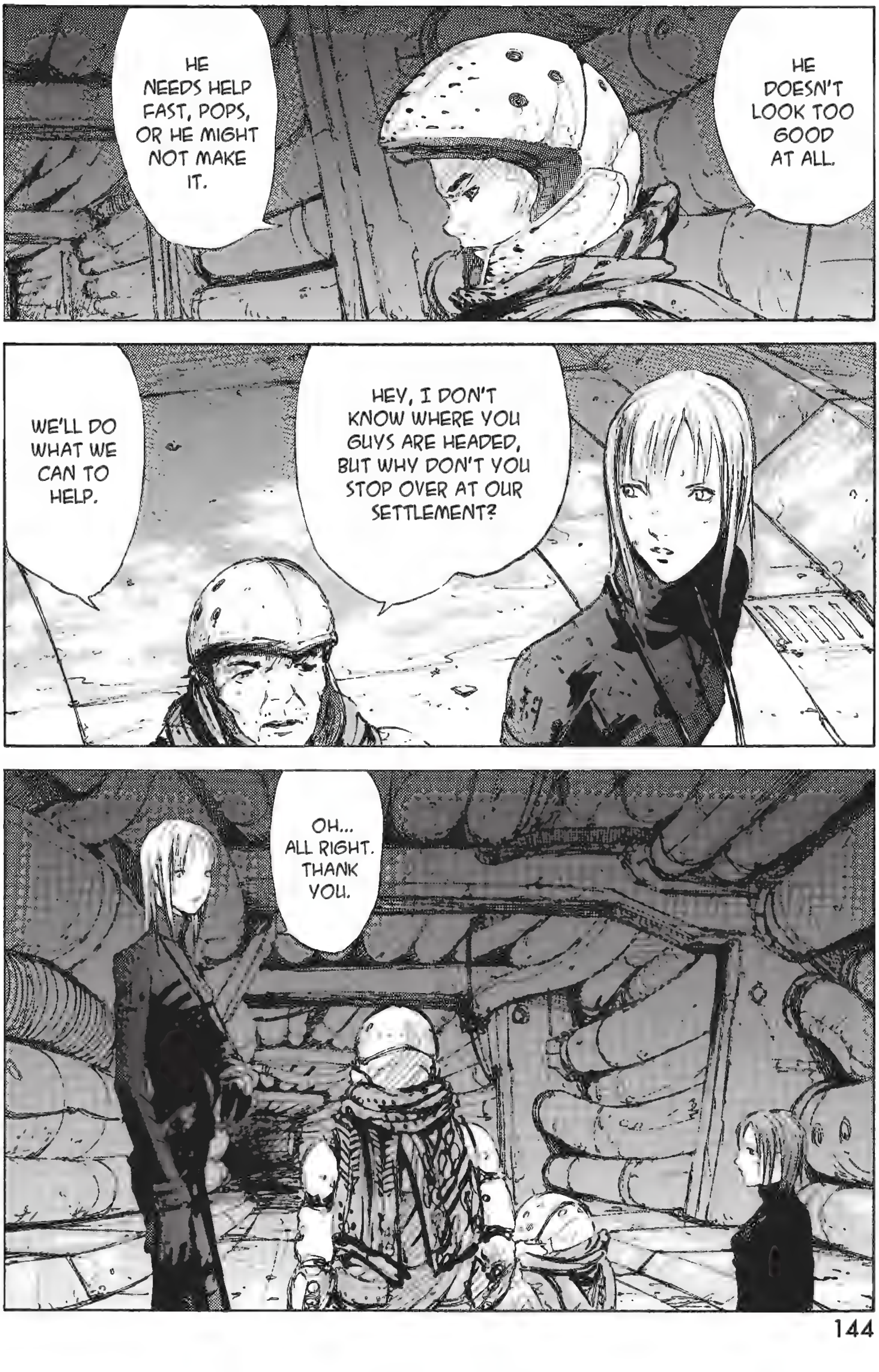


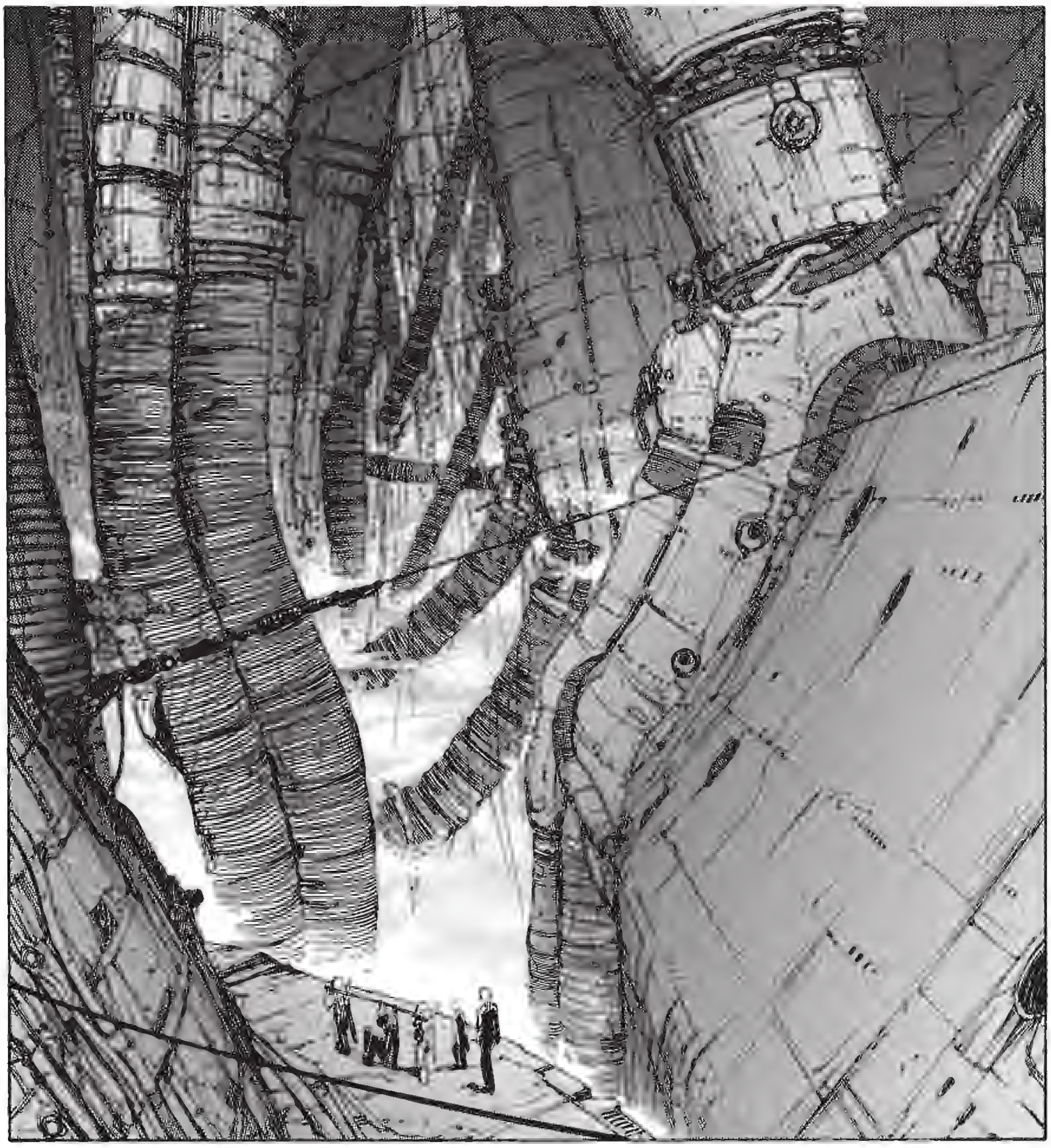

PIP PIP
PSHOONT
SHH
KLANG

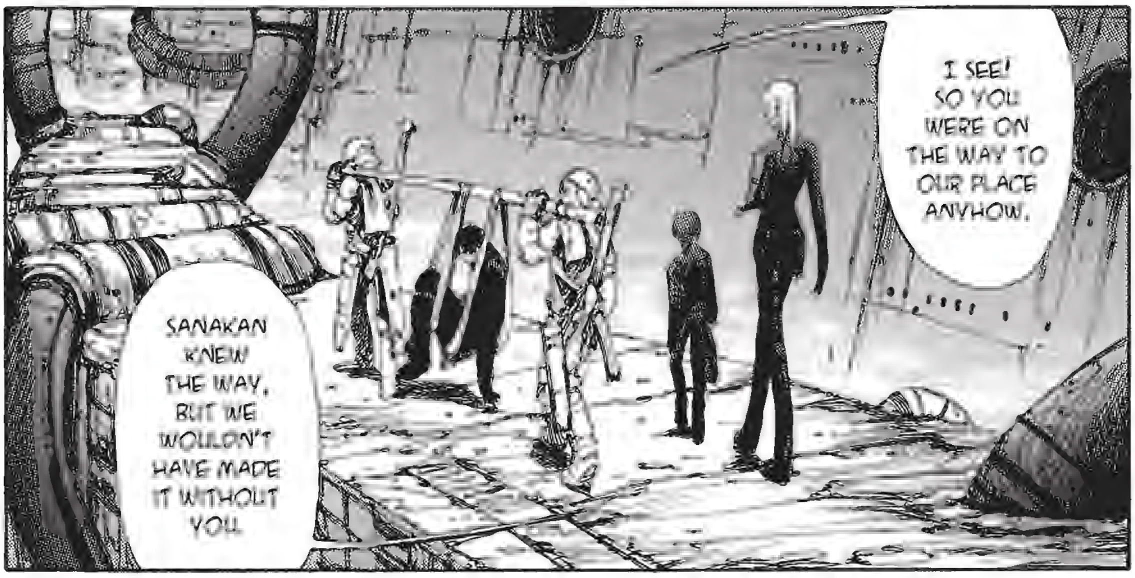

YO, POPS!!
WOOP!!
PSHOONT
ドズッ
SSPAK

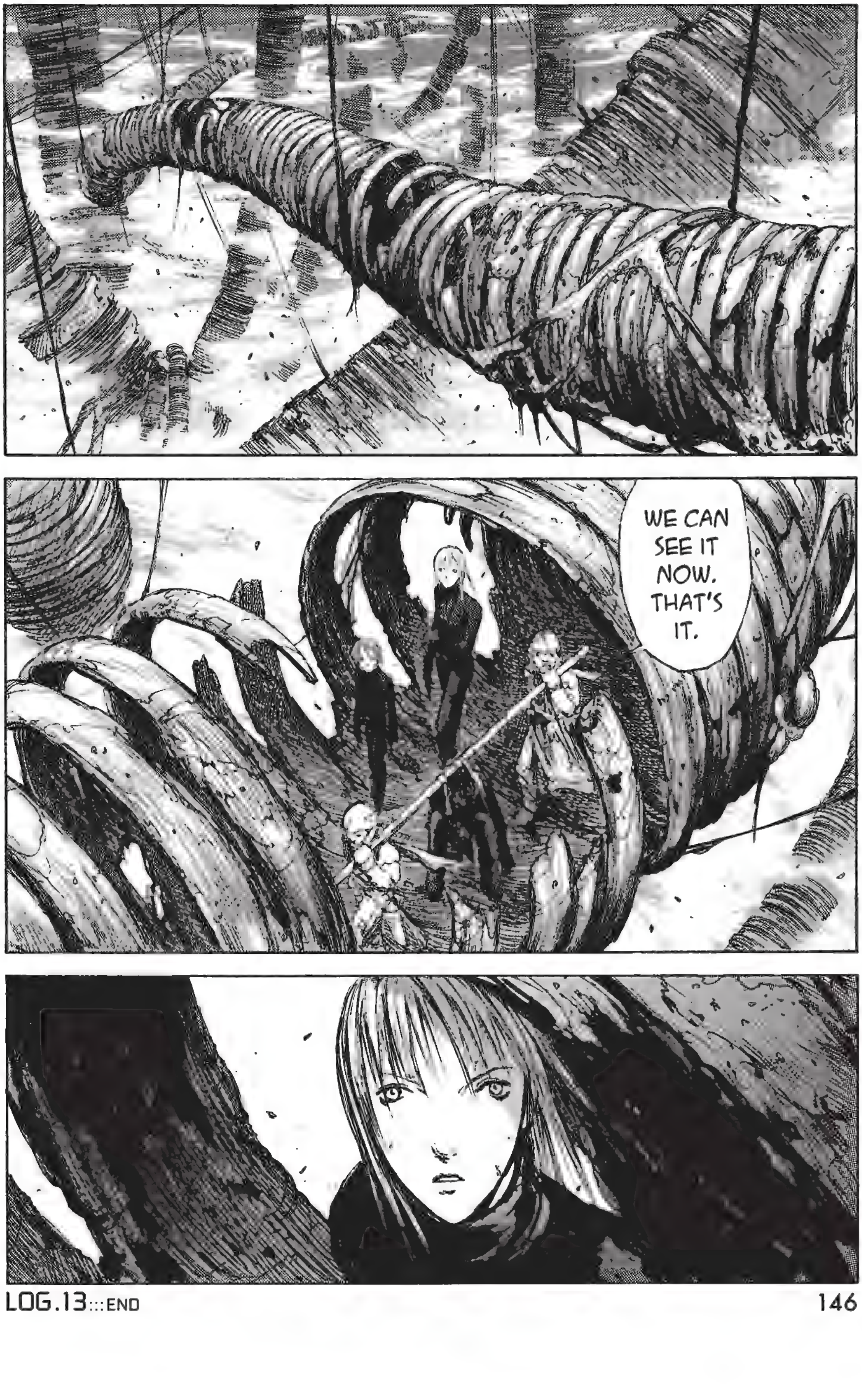

ガシャッ
GASHUNK
…
バシャ
BSSHT


YOU GUYS AIN'T HURT TOO BAD, ARE YA?
GSHAK
SERIOUSLY, POPS. TRY NOT TO CUT IT SO CLOSE.
WELL, YOU CAN'T JUST JUMP OUT LIKE THAT.
...
HAD TO RUN AFTER YOU IN SUCH A HURRY I THREW MY BACK OUT.
UH-OH... THIS GUY HERE'S OUT COLD.

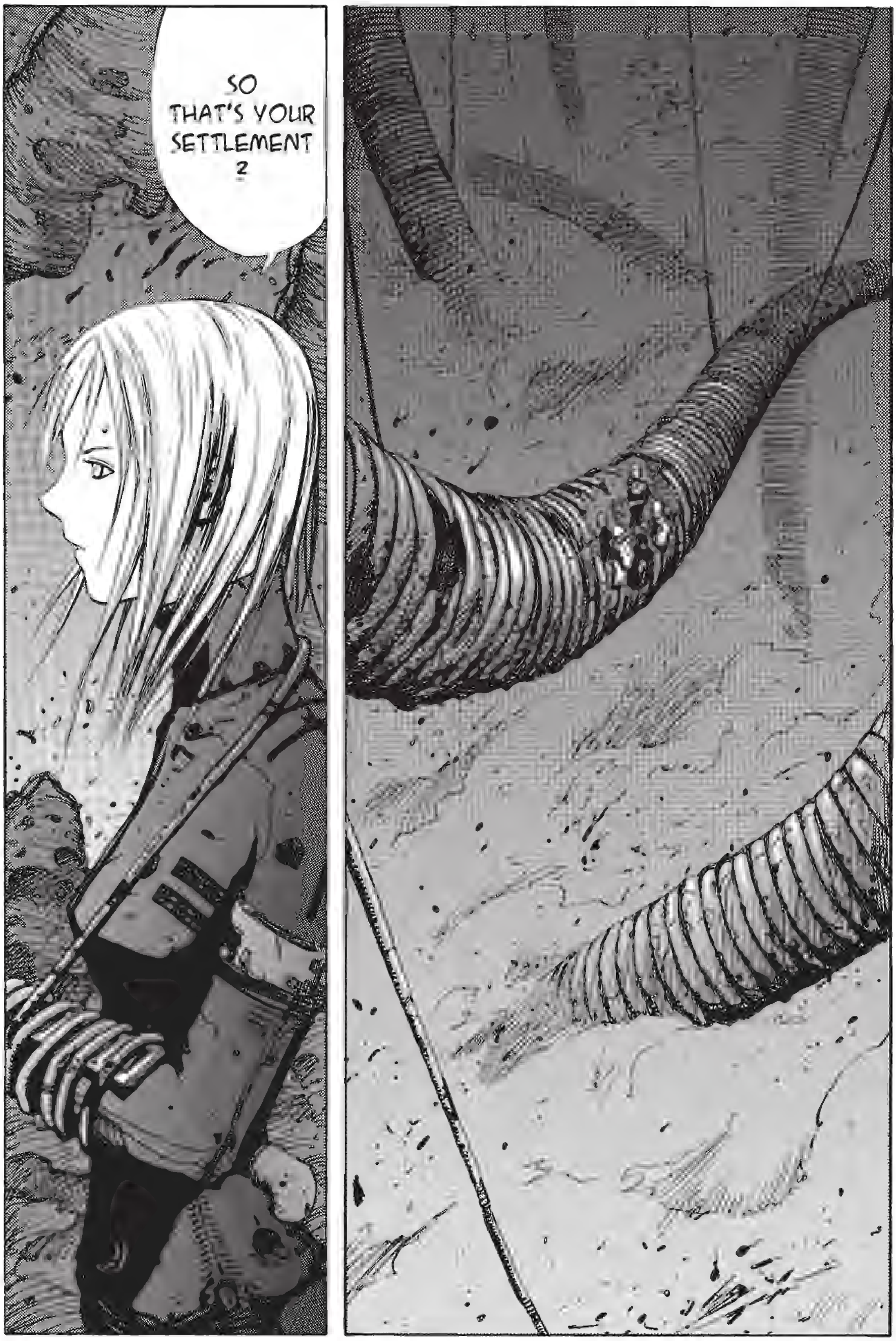

HE DOESN'T LOOK TOO GOOD AT ALL.
HE NEEDS HELP FAST, POPS, OR HE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT.
HEY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GUYS ARE HEADED, BUT WHY DON'T YOU STOP OVER AT OUR SETTLEMENT?
WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP.
OH... ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.




I SEE! SO YOU WERE ON THE WAY TO OUR PLACE ANYHOW.
SANAKAN KNEW THE WAY, BUT WE WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT WITHOUT YOU.

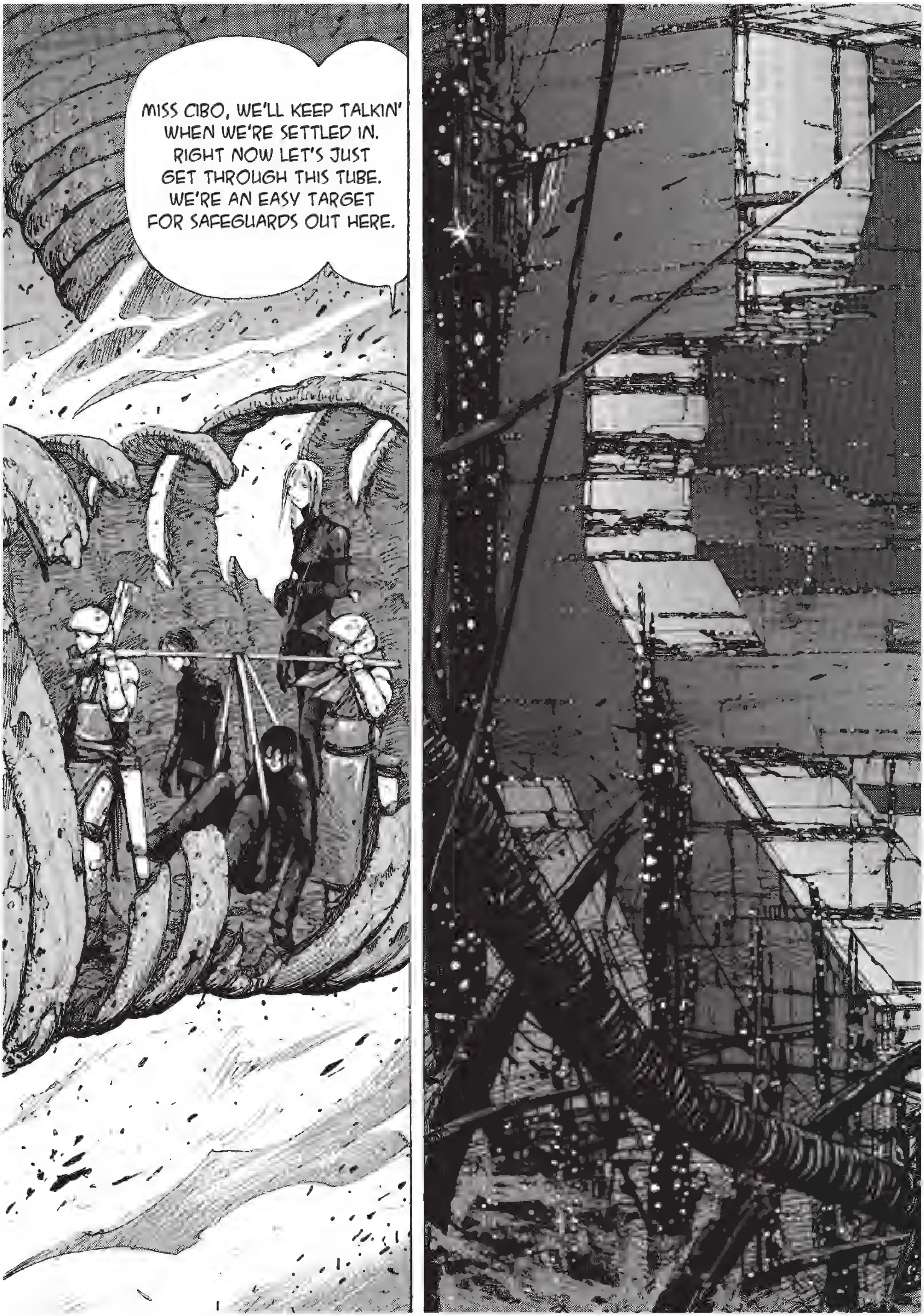

WE CAN SEE IT NOW. THAT'S IT.

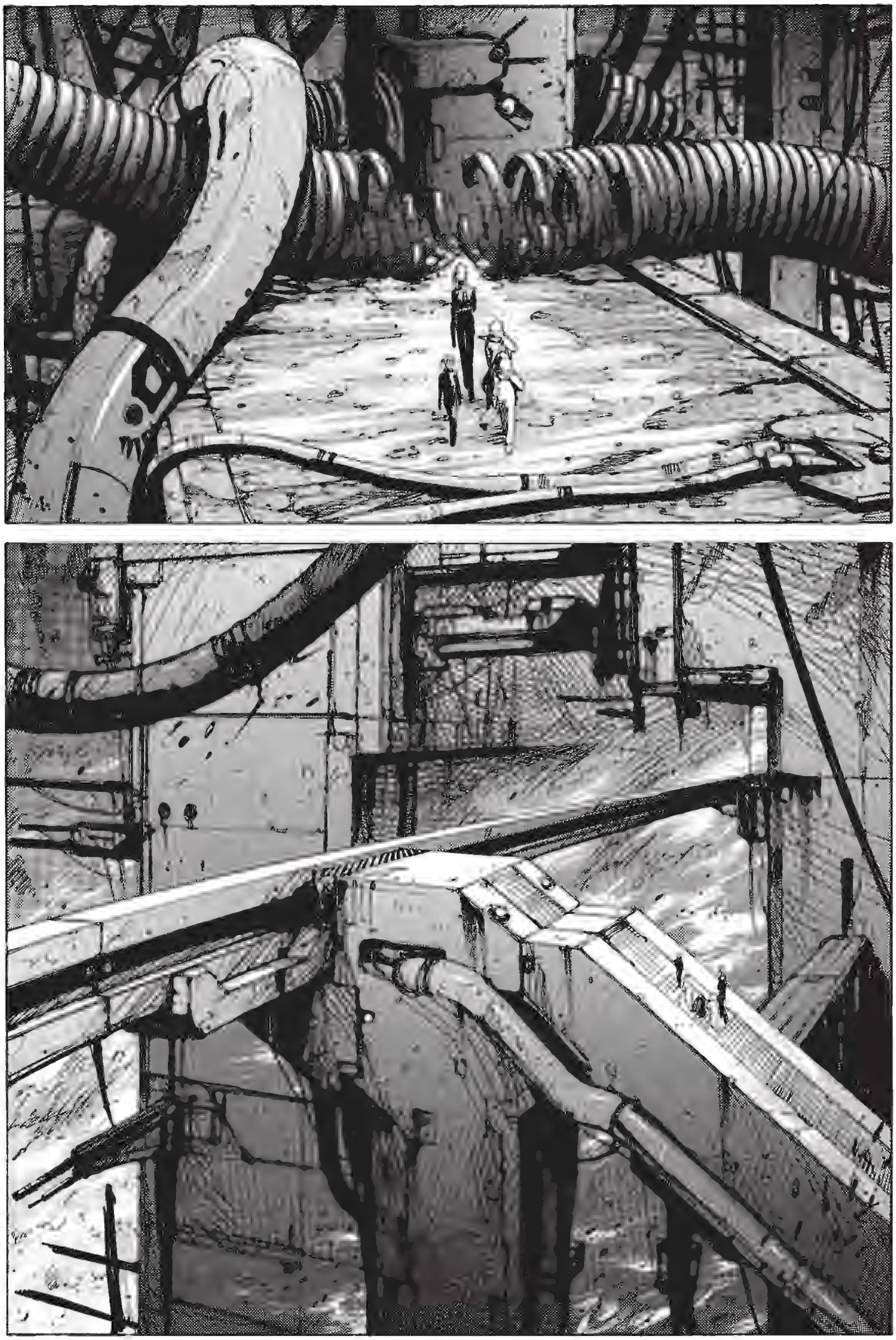
LOG.13:::END

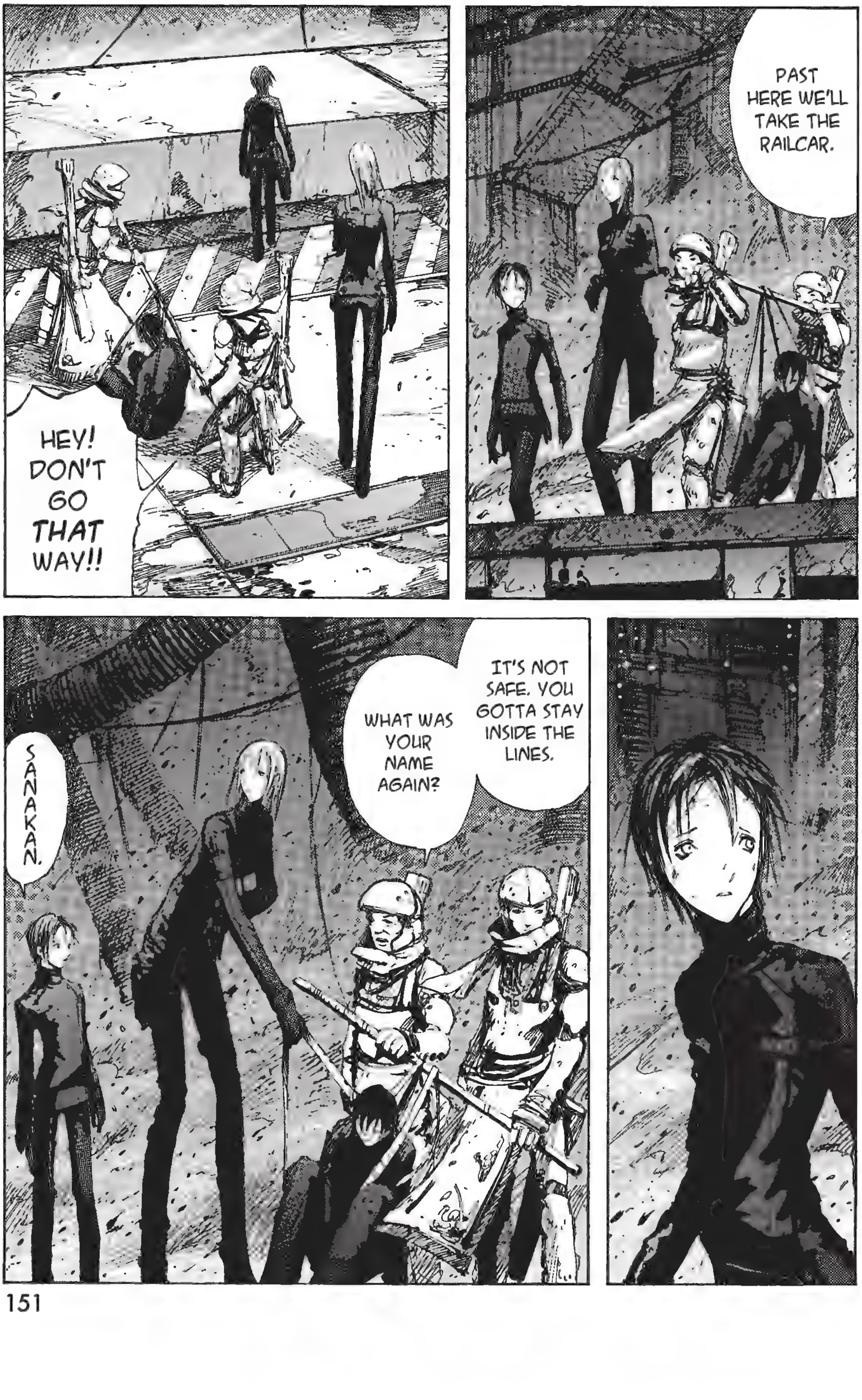

SO THAT'S YOUR SETTLEMENT ?

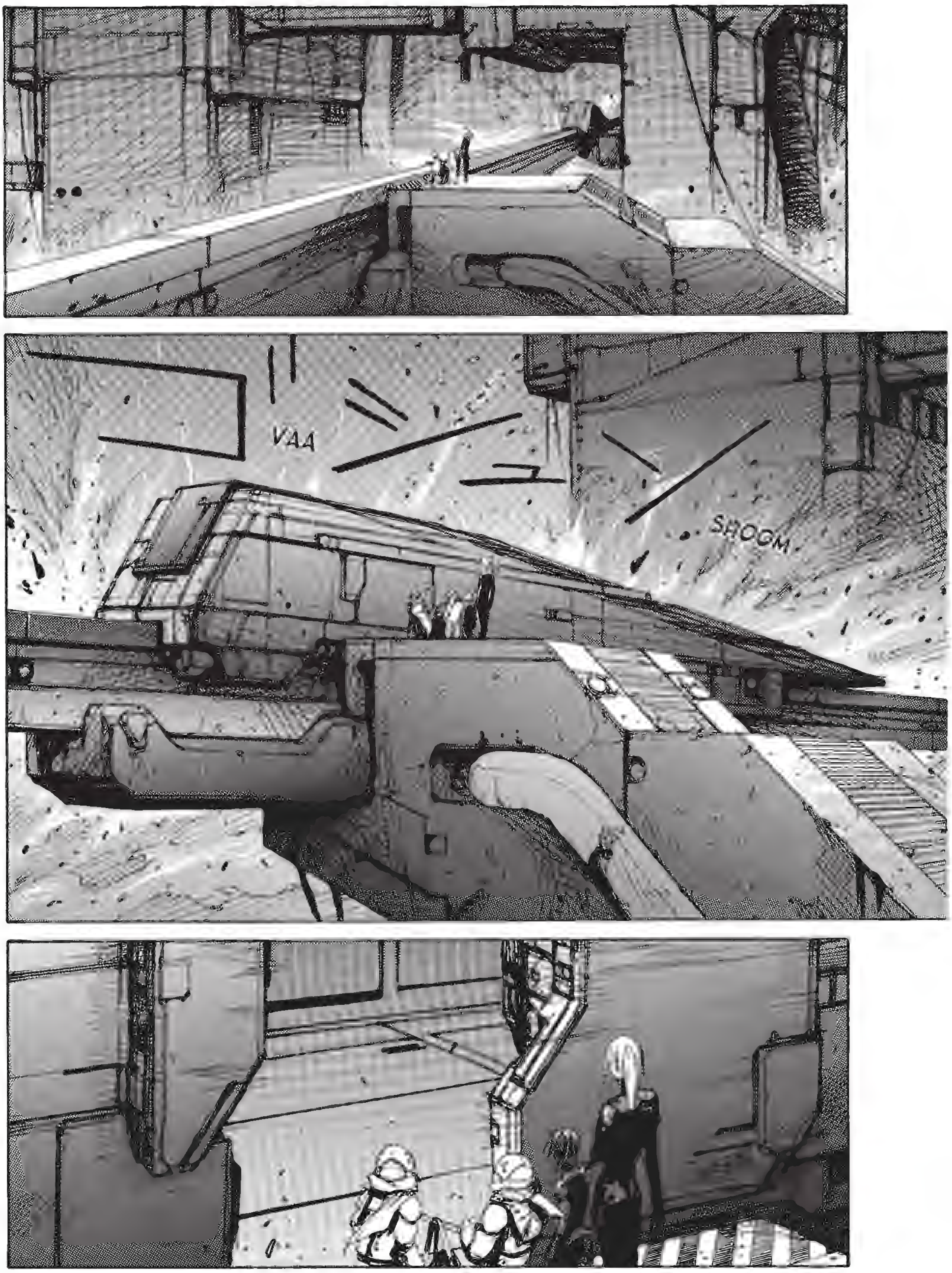
LOG.14

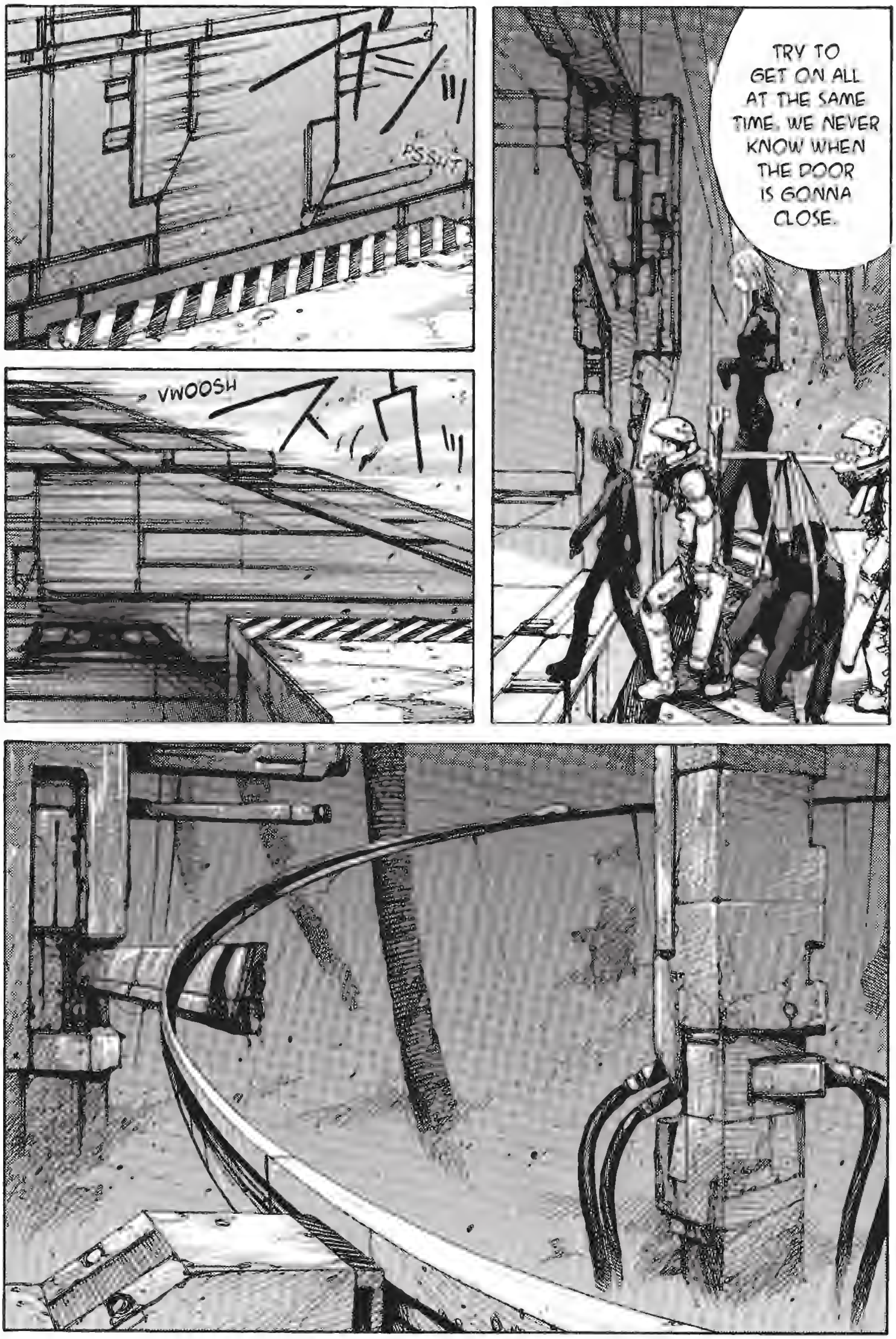
PLANTERS

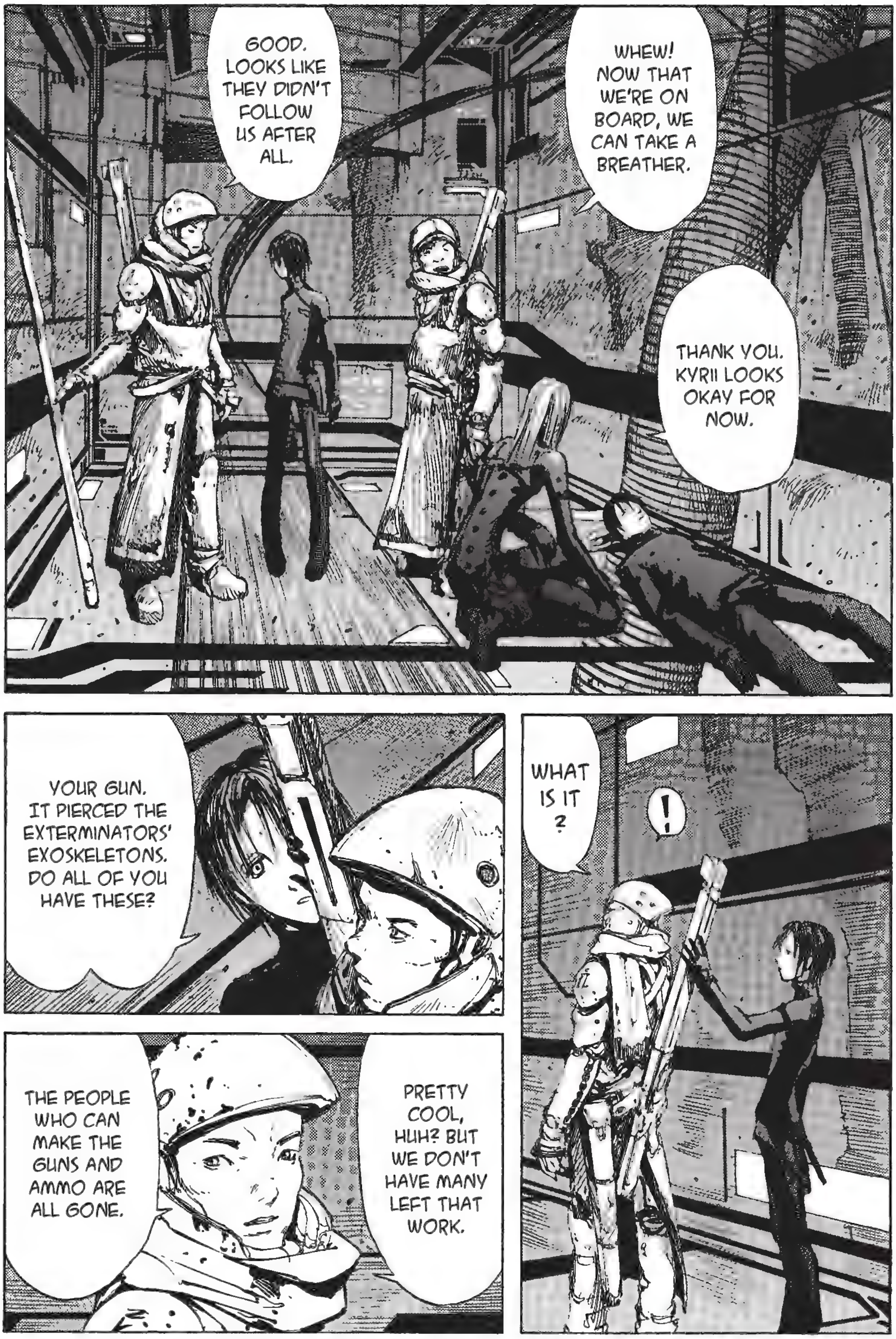

MISS CIBO, WE'LL KEEP TALKIN' WHEN WE'RE SETTLED IN. RIGHT NOW LET'S JUST GET THROUGH THIS TUBE. WE'RE AN EASY TARGET FOR SAFEGUARDS OUT HERE.

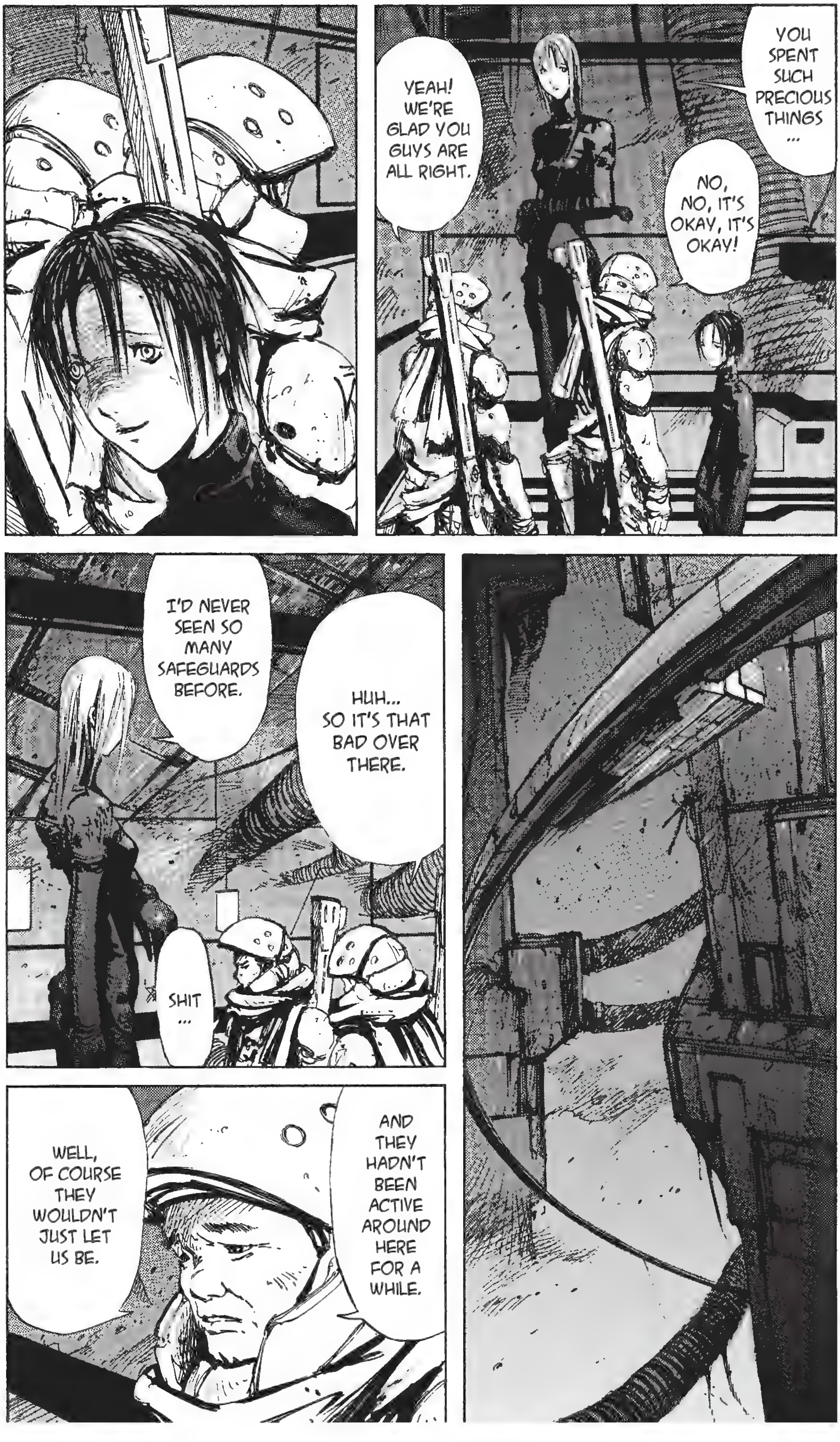


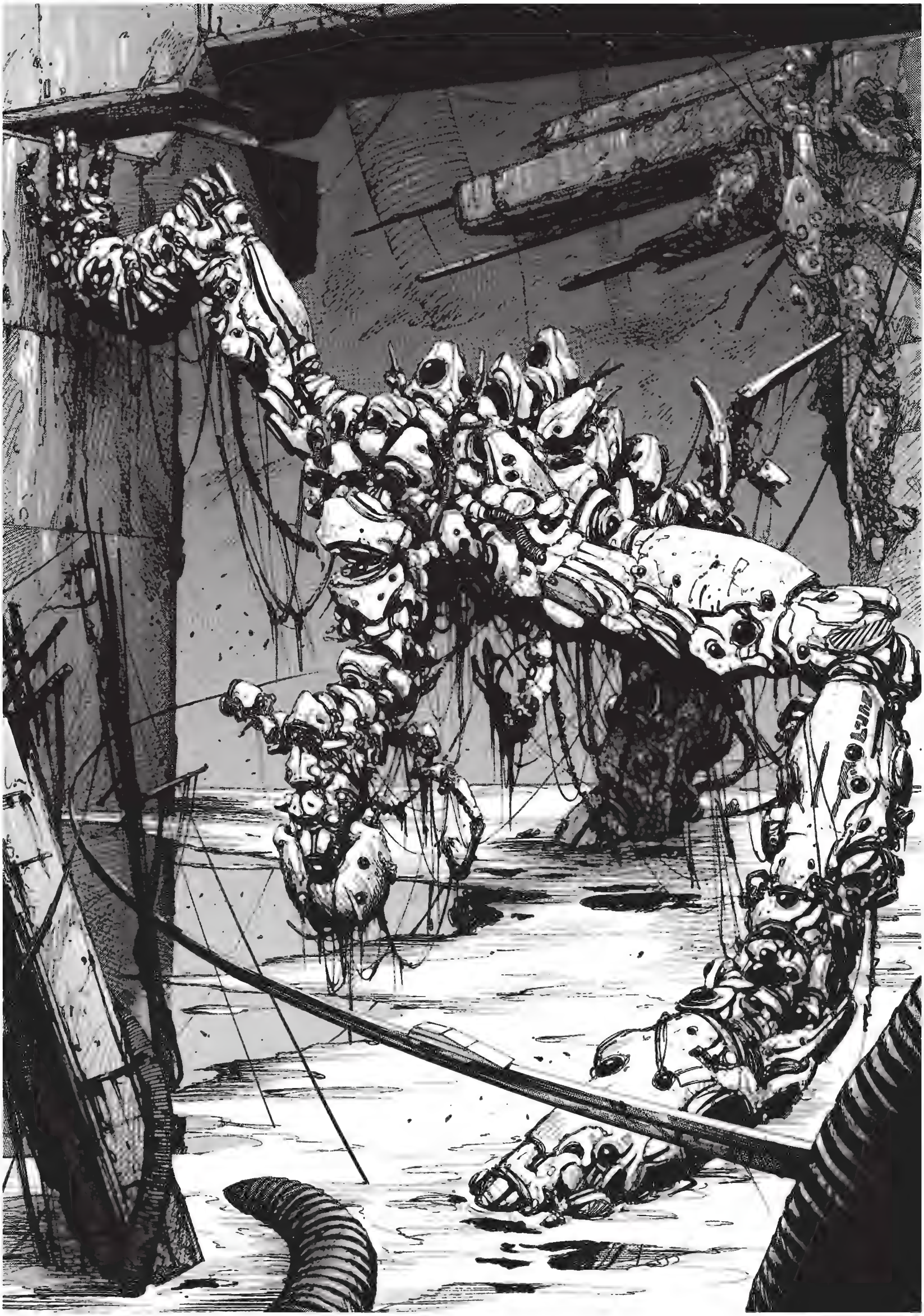

HEY! DON'T GO THAT WAY!!
PAST HERE WE'LL TAKE THE RAILCAR.
IT'S NOT SAFE. YOU GOTTA STAY INSIDE THE LINES.
WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
SANAKAN.

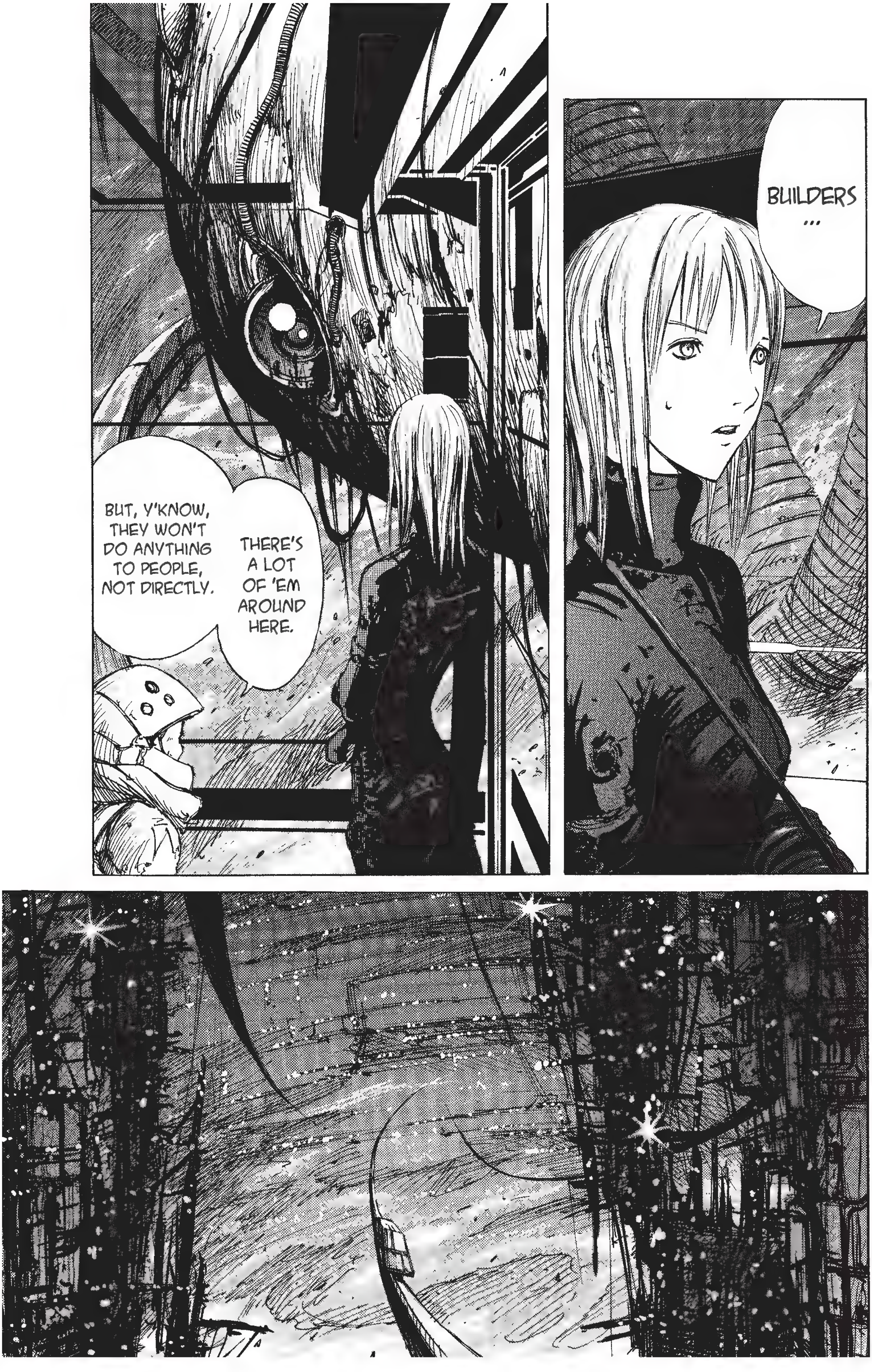

VAA
SHOOM

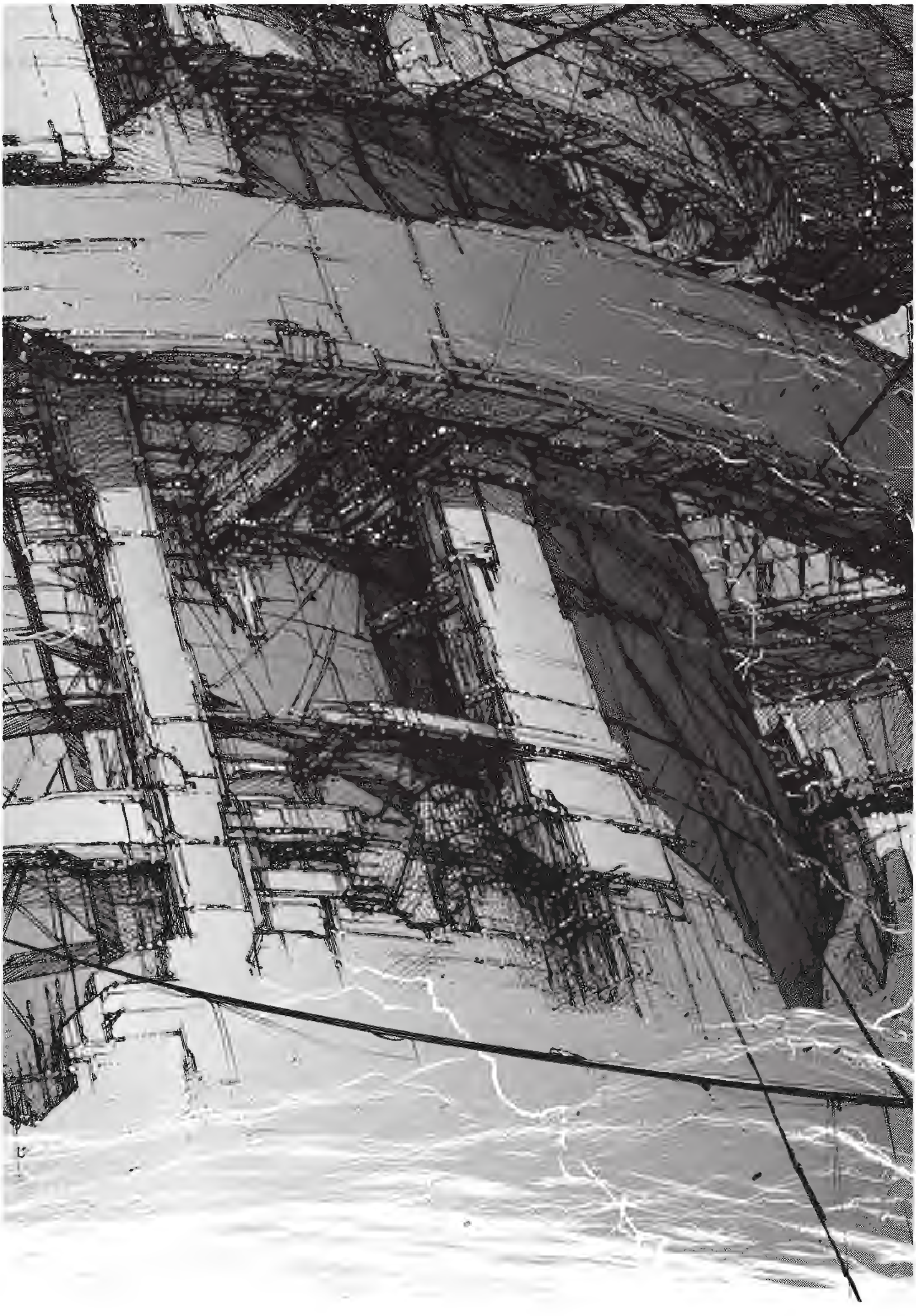

TRY TO GET ON ALL AT THE SAME TIME. WE NEVER KNOW WHEN THE DOOR IS GONNA CLOSE.
PSSHT
VWOOSH

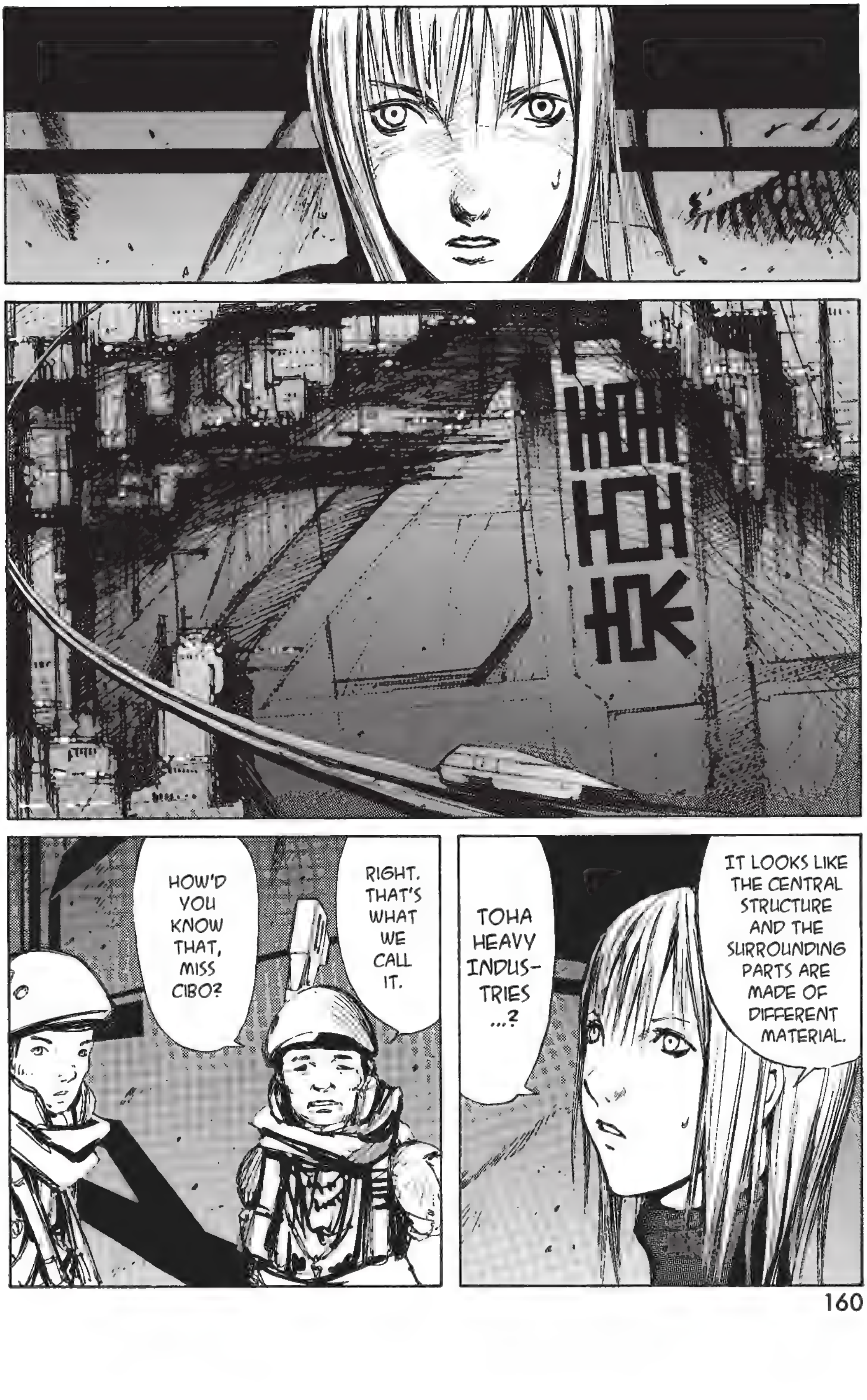

WHEW! NOW THAT WE'RE ON BOARD, WE CAN TAKE A BREATHER.
GOOD. LOOKS LIKE THEY DIDN'T FOLLOW US AFTER ALL.
THANK YOU. KYRII LOOKS OKAY FOR NOW.
WHAT IS IT?
!
YOUR GUN. IT PIERCED THE EXTERMINATORS' EXOSKELETONS. DO ALL OF YOU HAVE THESE?
PRETTY COOL, HUH? BUT WE DON'T HAVE MANY LEFT THAT WORK.
THE PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE THE GUNS AND AMMO ARE ALL GONE.

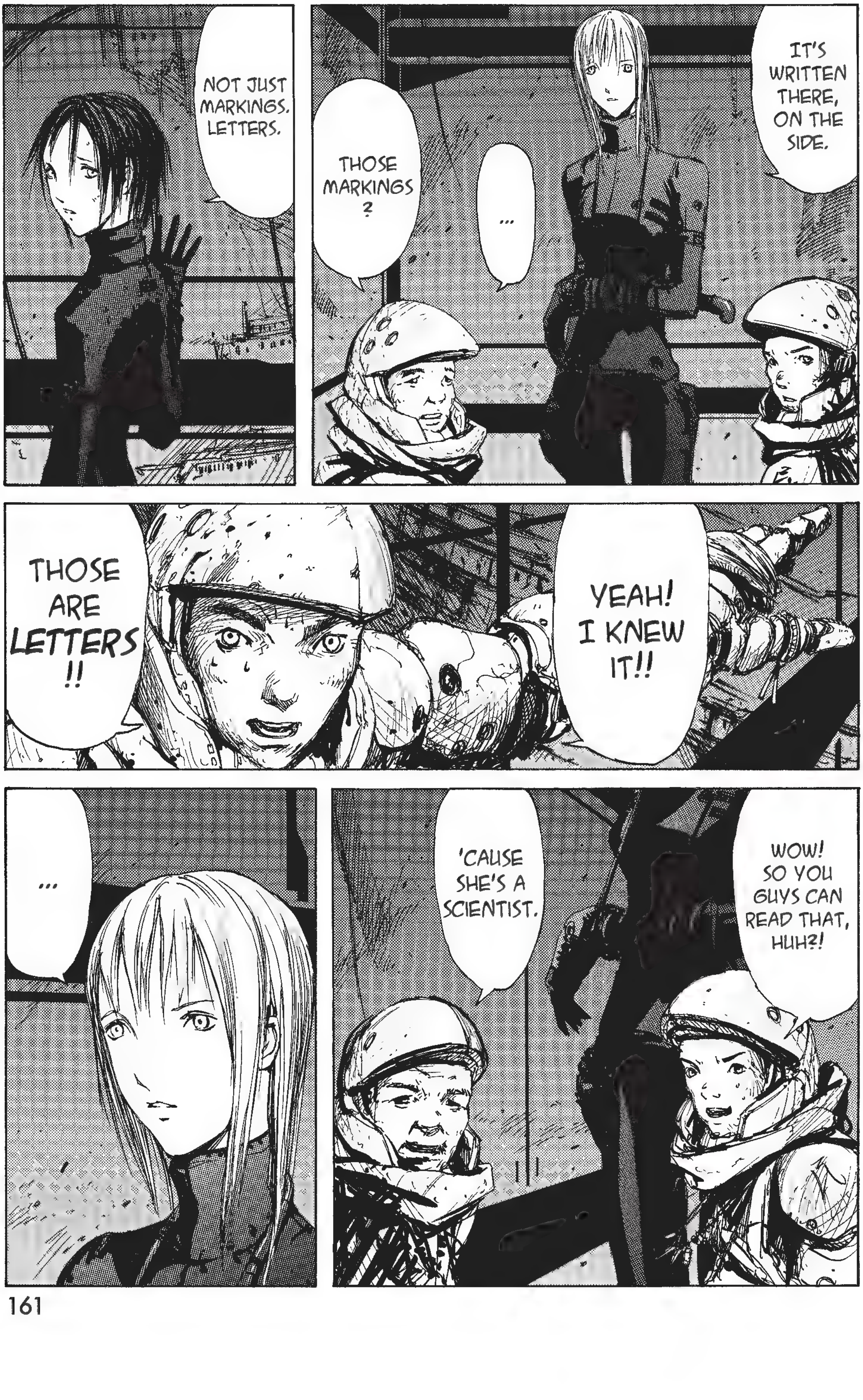

YOU SPENT SUCH PRECIOUS THINGS ...
NO, NO, IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY!
YEAH! WE'RE GLAD YOU GUYS ARE ALL RIGHT.
I'D NEVER SEEN SO MANY SAFEGUARDS BEFORE.
HUH... SO IT'S THAT BAD OVER THERE.
SHIT ...
AND THEY HADN'T BEEN ACTIVE AROUND HERE FOR A WHILE.
WELL, OF COURSE THEY WOULDN'T JUST LET US BE.

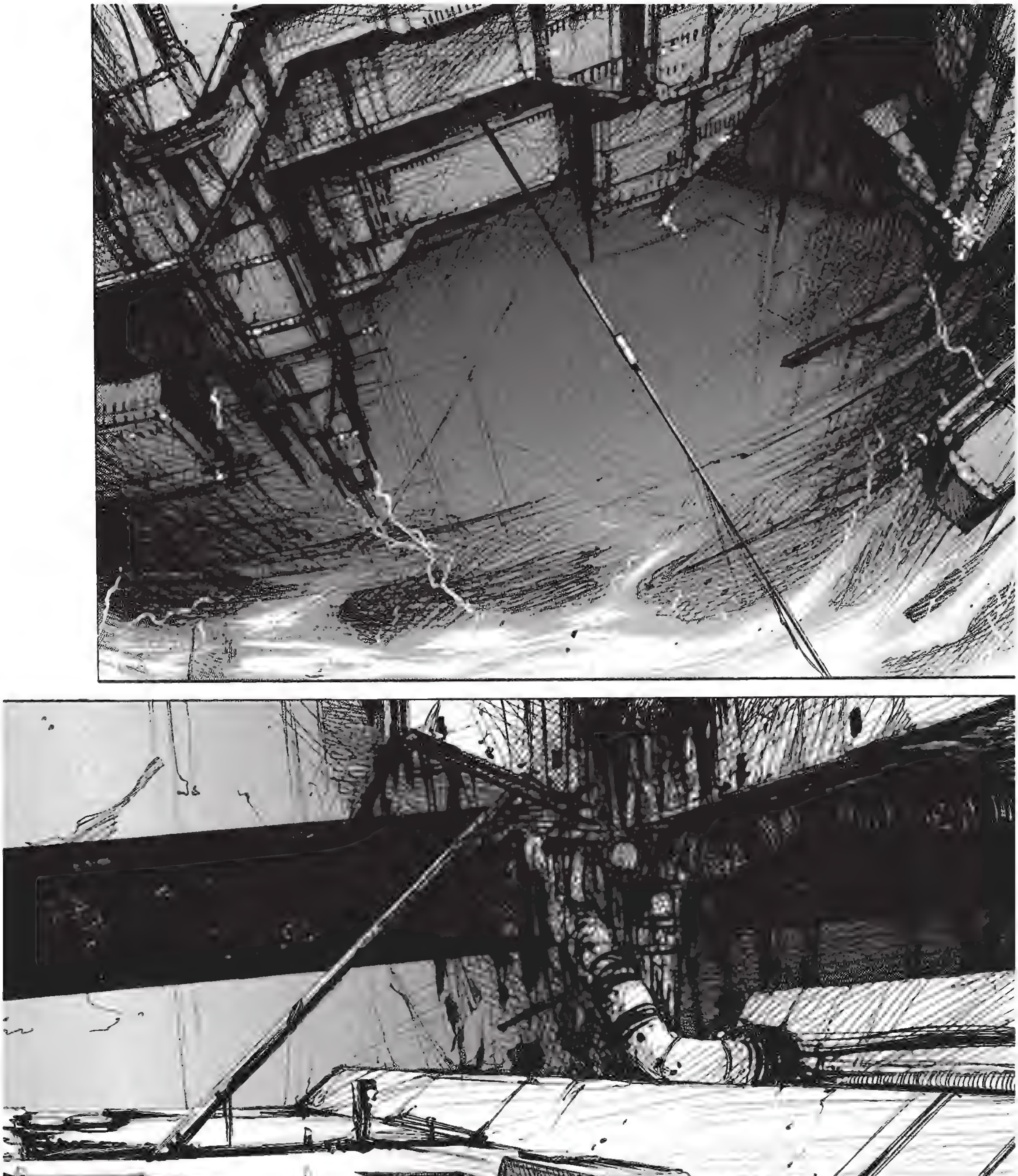


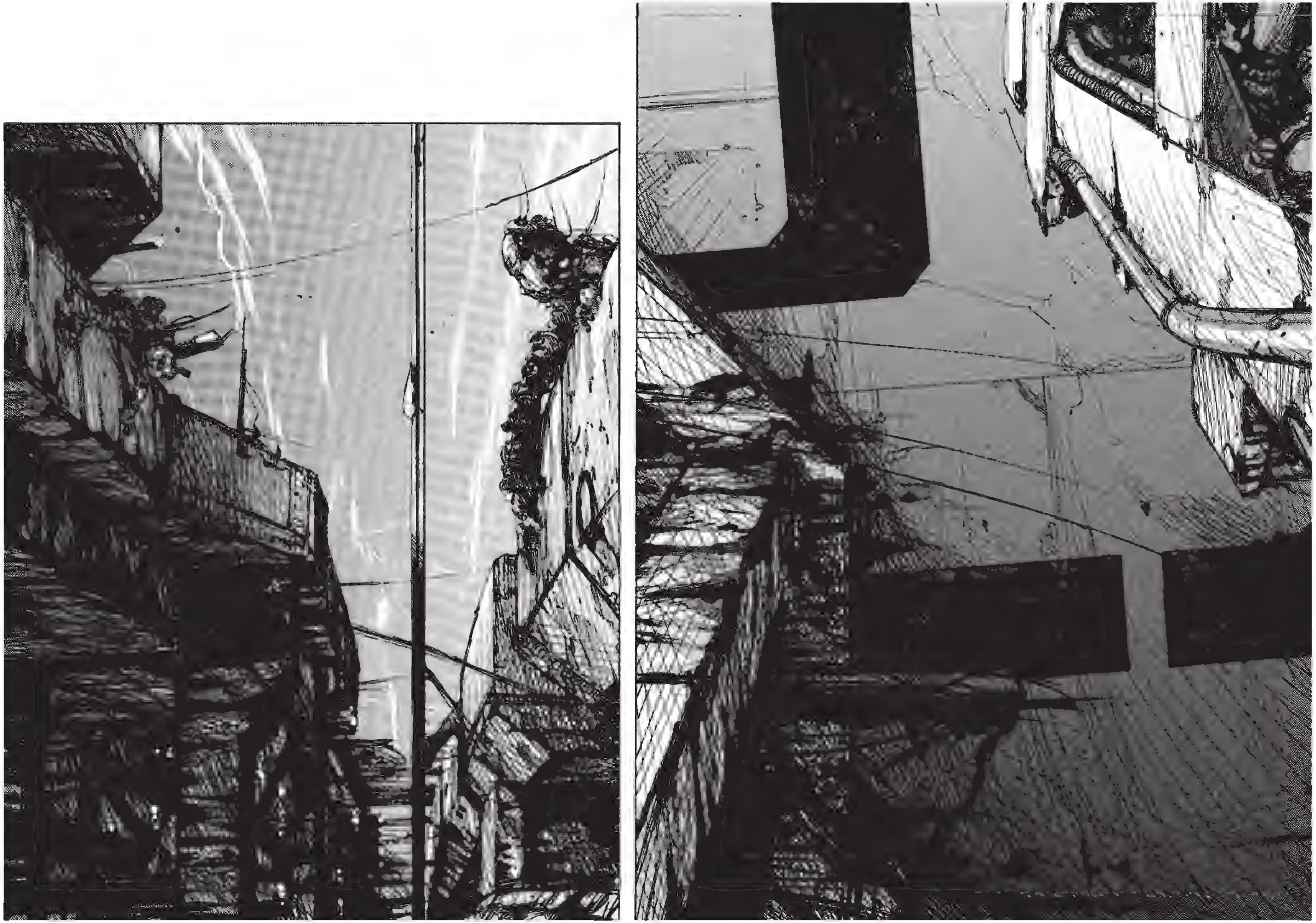

BUILDERS ...
THERE'S A LOT OF 'EM AROUND HERE.
BUT, Y'KNOW, THEY WON'T DO ANYTHING TO PEOPLE, NOT DIRECTLY.

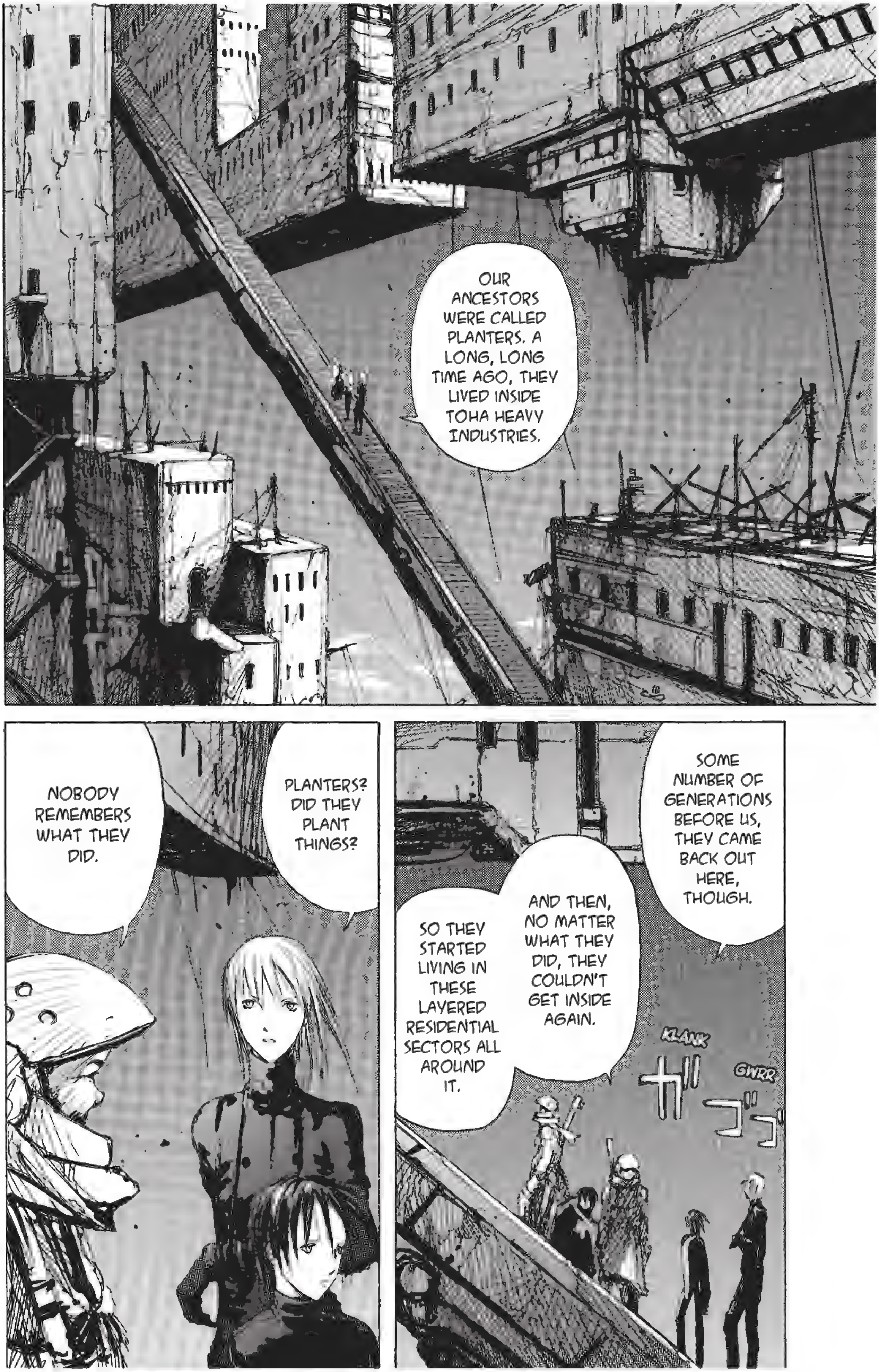


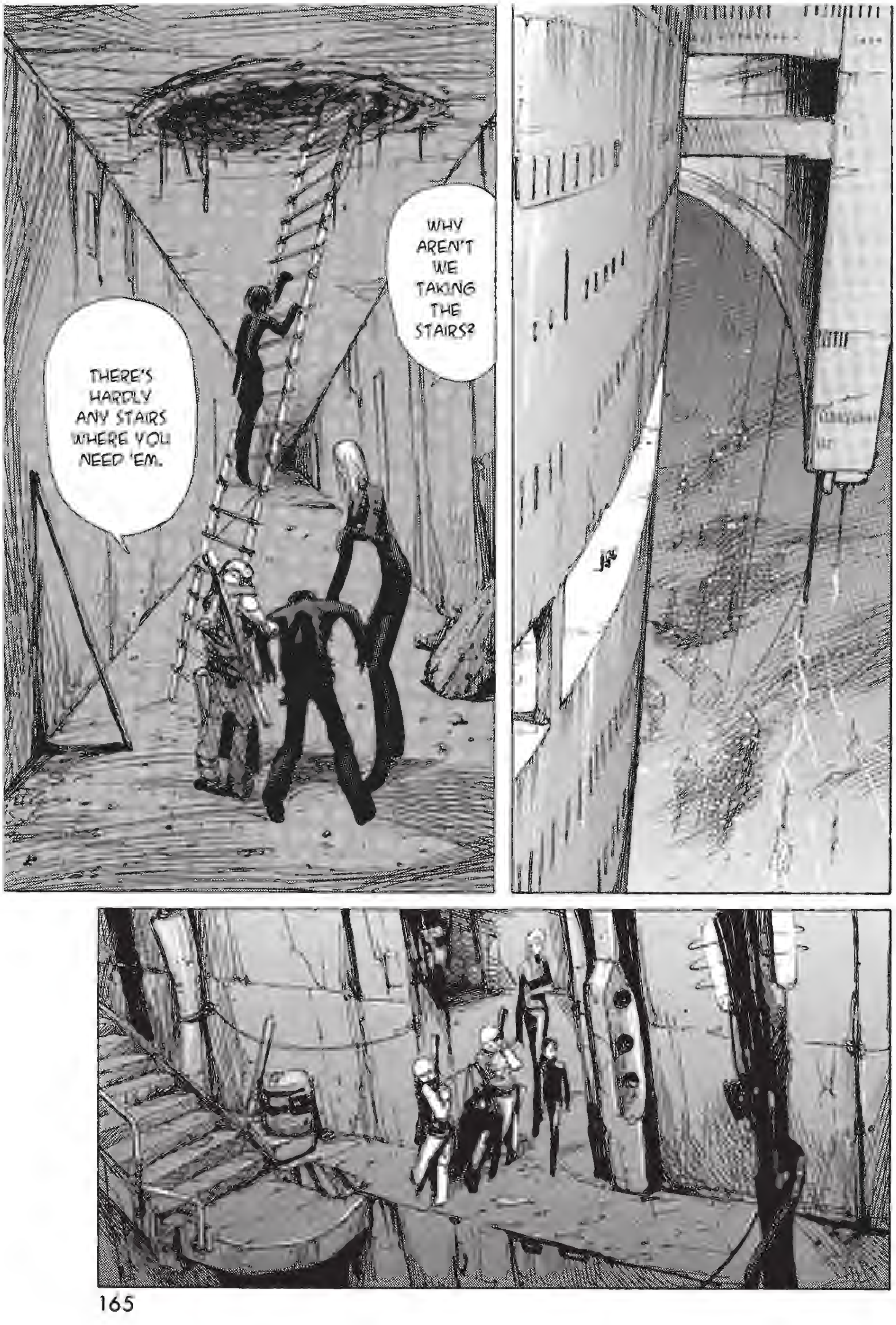

IT LOOKS LIKE THE CENTRAL STRUCTURE AND THE SURROUNDING PARTS ARE MADE OF DIFFERENT MATERIAL.
TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES ...?
RIGHT. THAT'S WHAT WE CALL IT.
HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT, MISS CIBO?

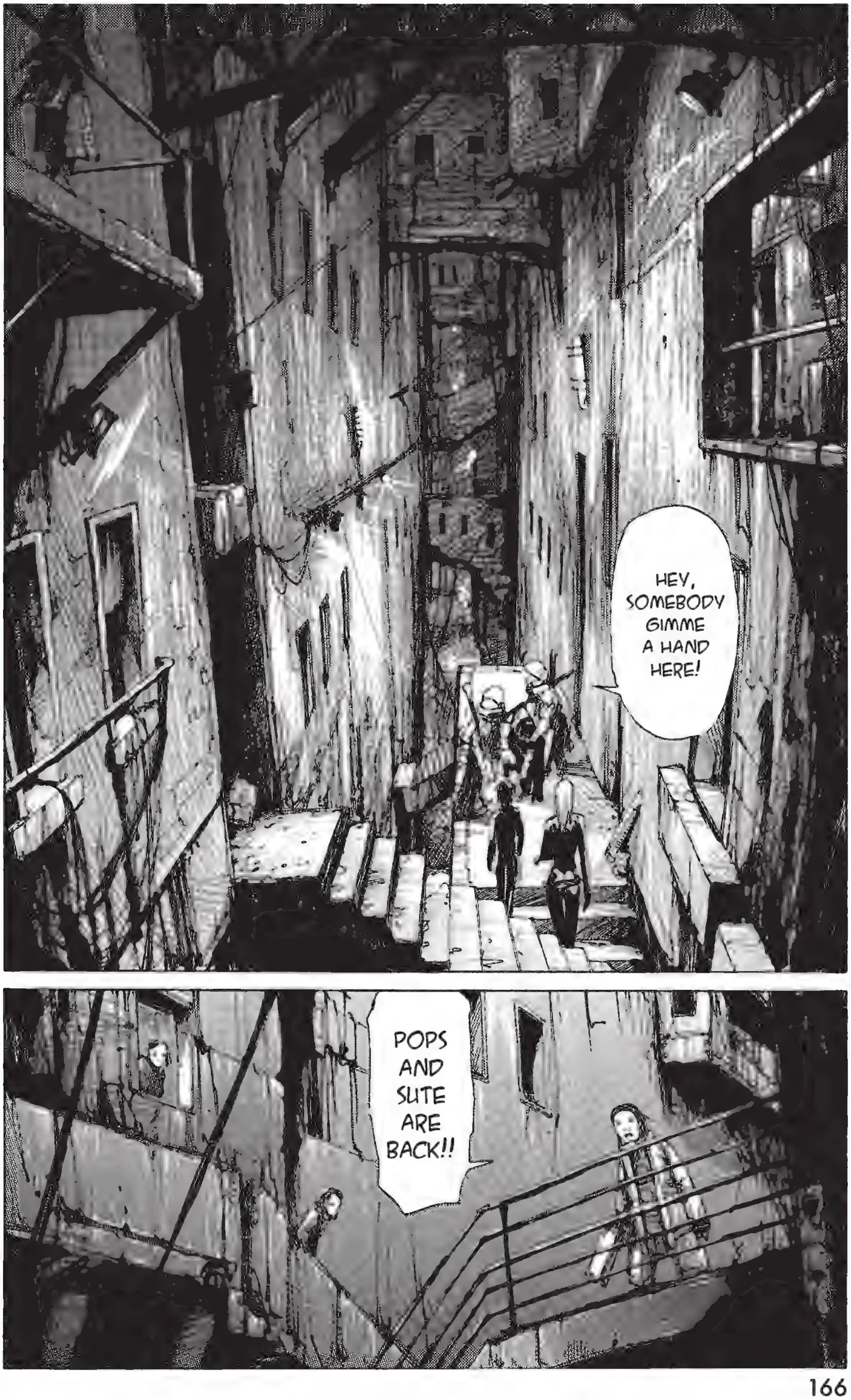

IT'S WRITTEN THERE, ON THE SIDE.
...
THOSE MARKINGS?
NOT JUST MARKINGS. LETTERS.
YEAH! I KNEW IT!!
THOSE ARE **LETTERS**!!
WOW! SO YOU GUYS CAN READ THAT, HUH?!
'CAUSE SHE'S A SCIENTIST.
...

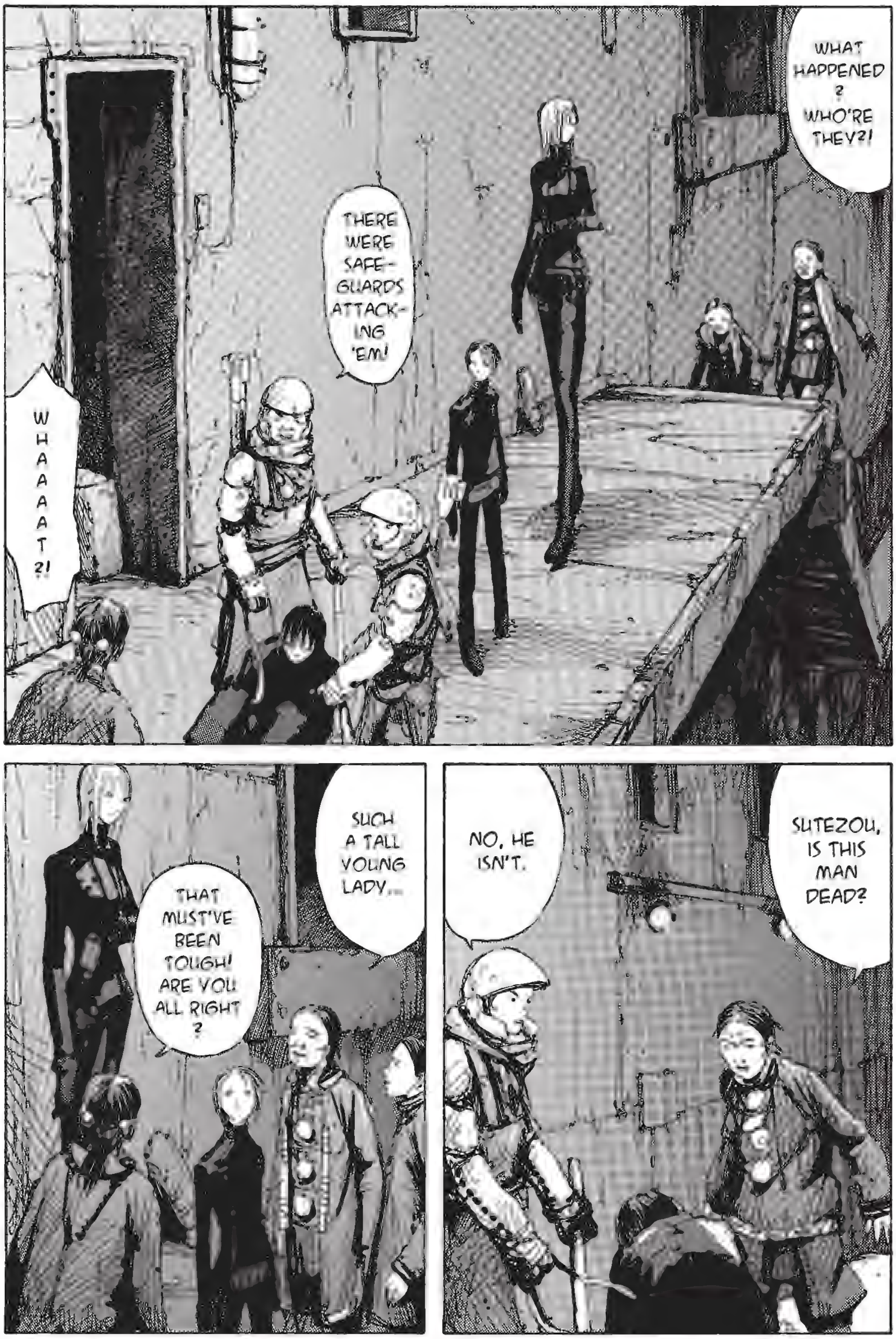


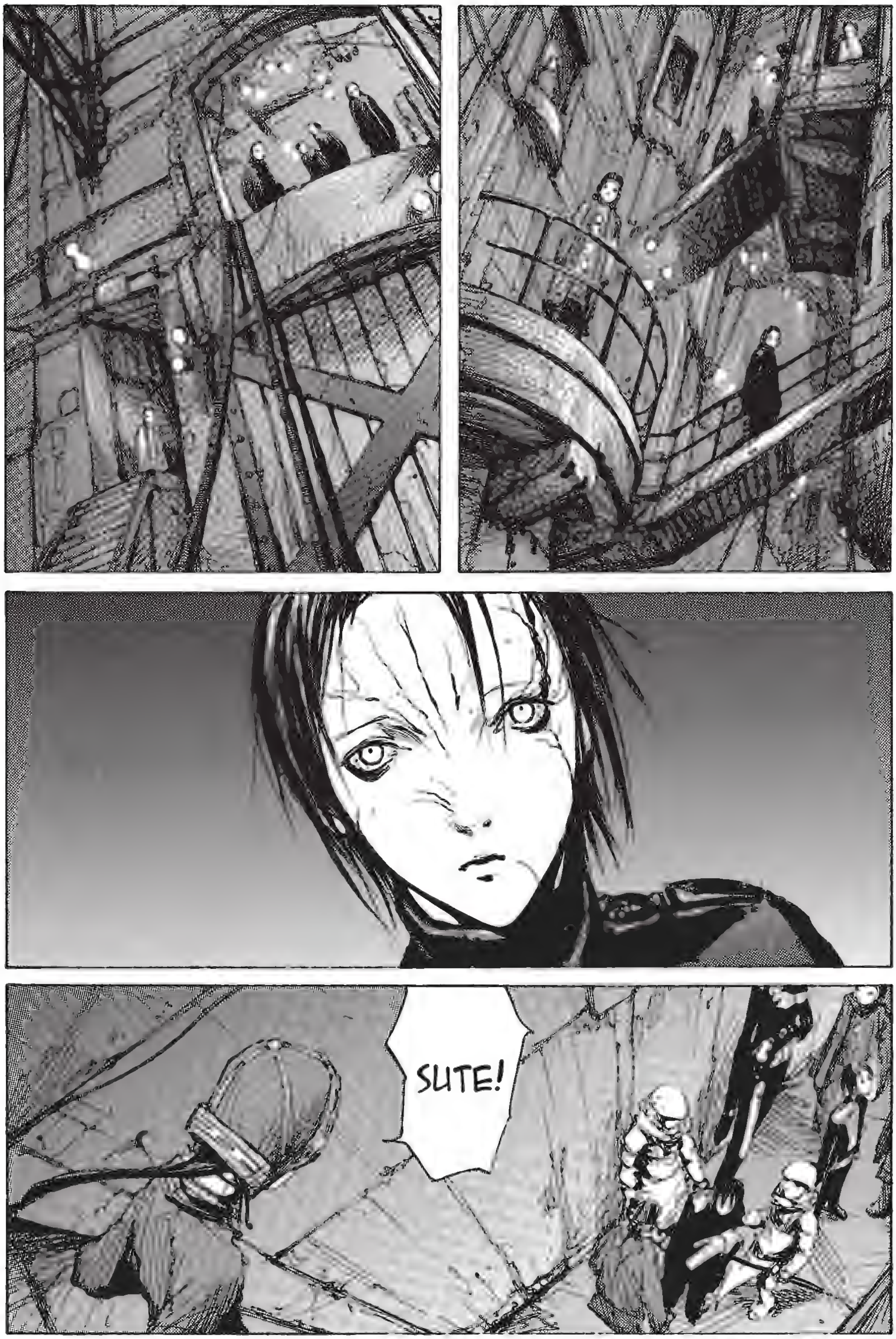


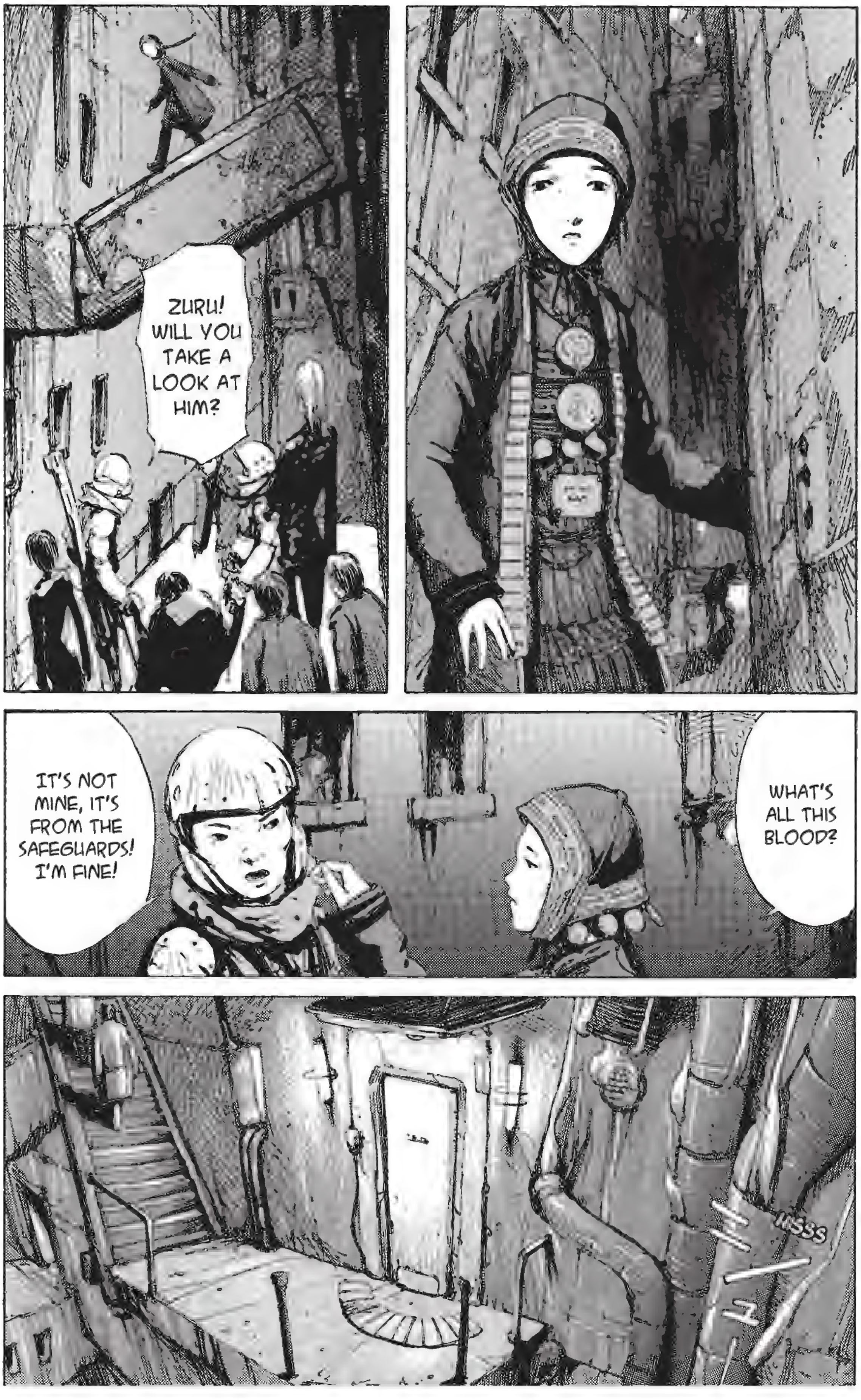

OUR ANCESTORS WERE CALLED PLANTERS. A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, THEY LIVED INSIDE TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES.
SOME NUMBER OF GENERATIONS BEFORE US, THEY CAME BACK OUT HERE, THOUGH.
AND THEN, NO MATTER WHAT THEY DID, THEY COULDN'T GET INSIDE AGAIN.
SO THEY STARTED LIVING IN THESE LAYERED RESIDENTIAL SECTORS ALL AROUND IT.
KLANK
ガリ
GWRR
ゴゴ
PLANTERS? DID THEY PLANT THINGS?
NOBODY REMEMBERS WHAT THEY DID.

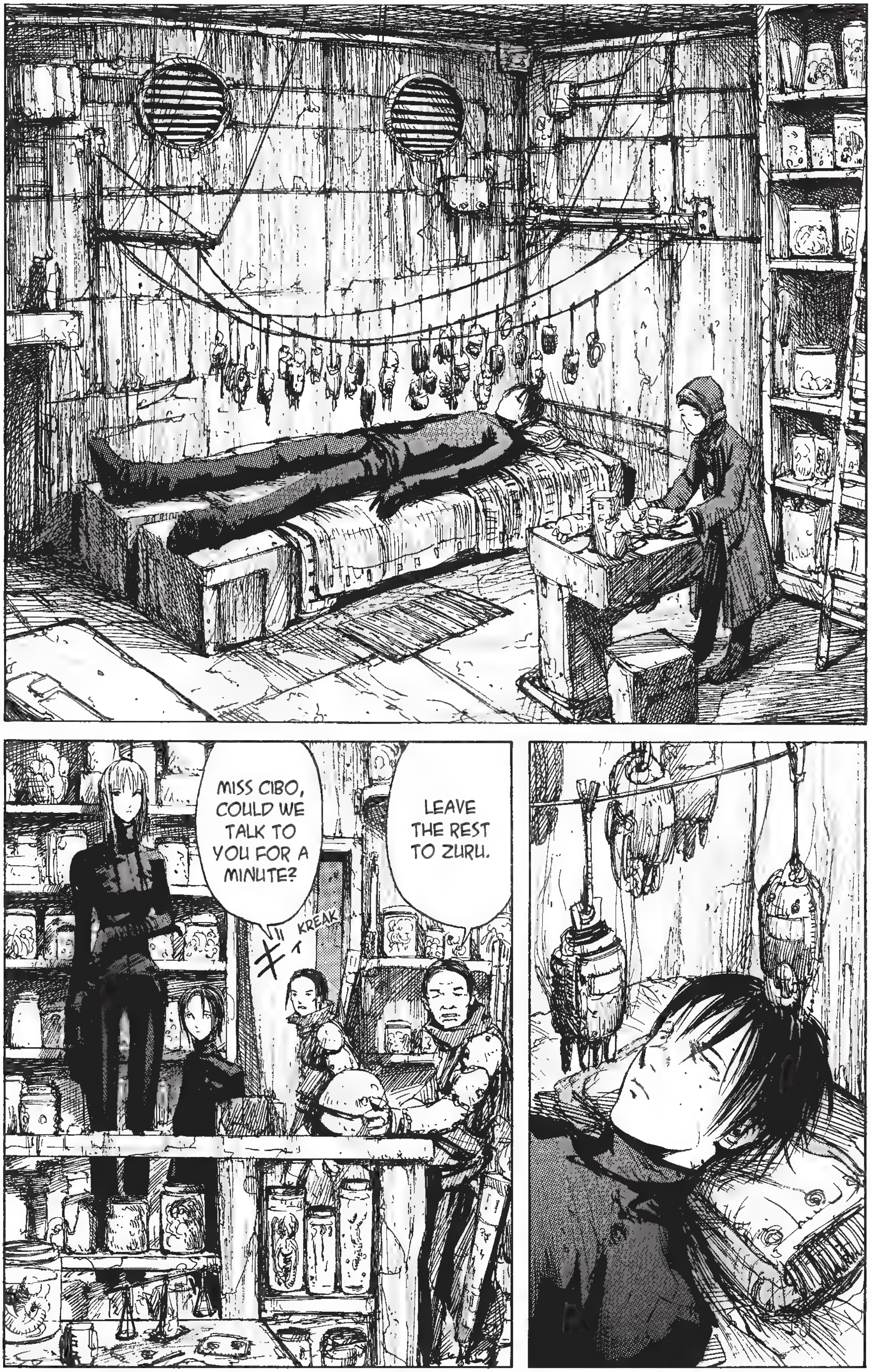

WHY AREN'T WE TAKING THE STAIRS?
THERE'S HARDLY ANY STAIRS WHERE YOU NEED 'EM.

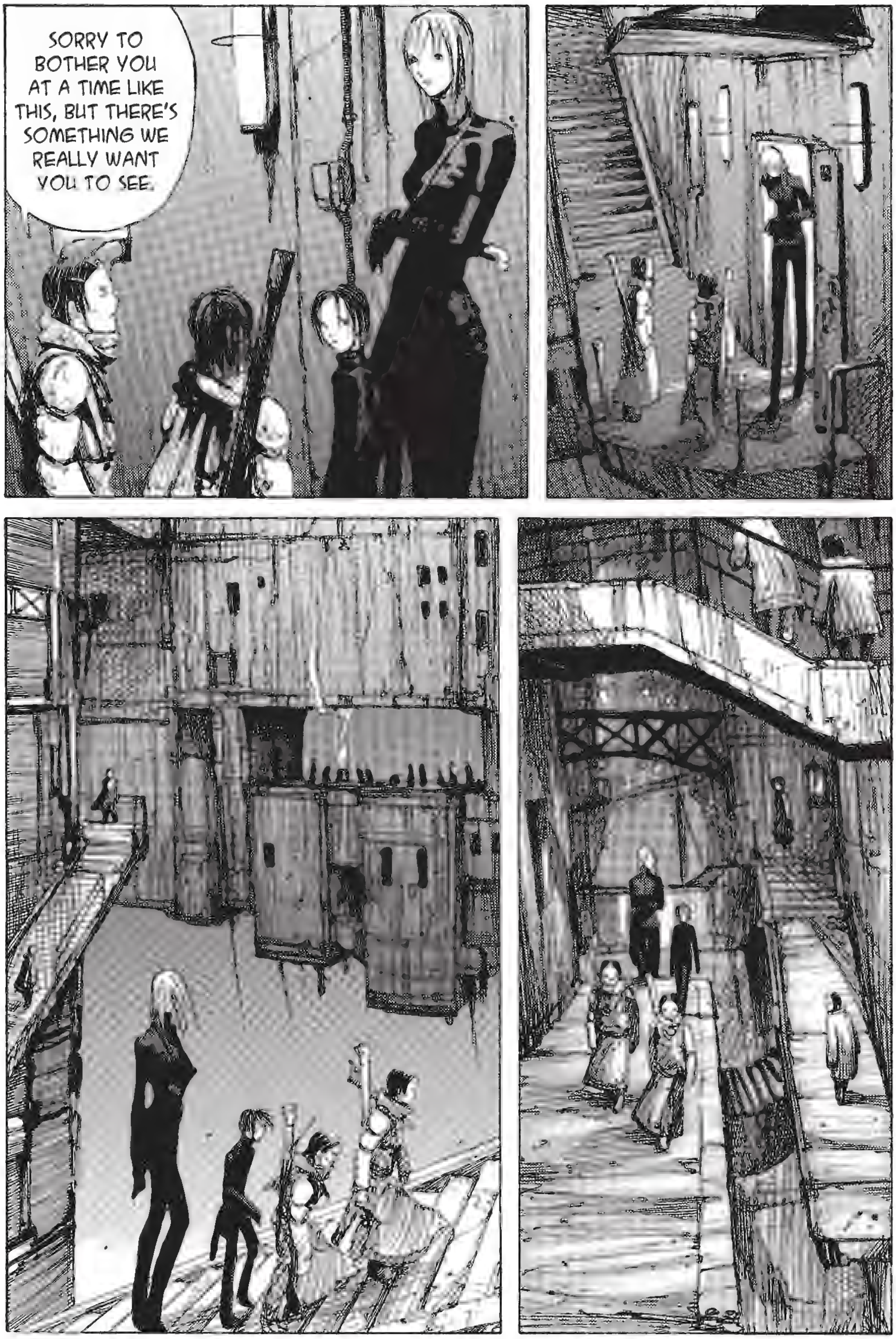

HEY, SOMEBODY GIMME A HAND HERE!
POPS AND SUTE ARE BACK!!

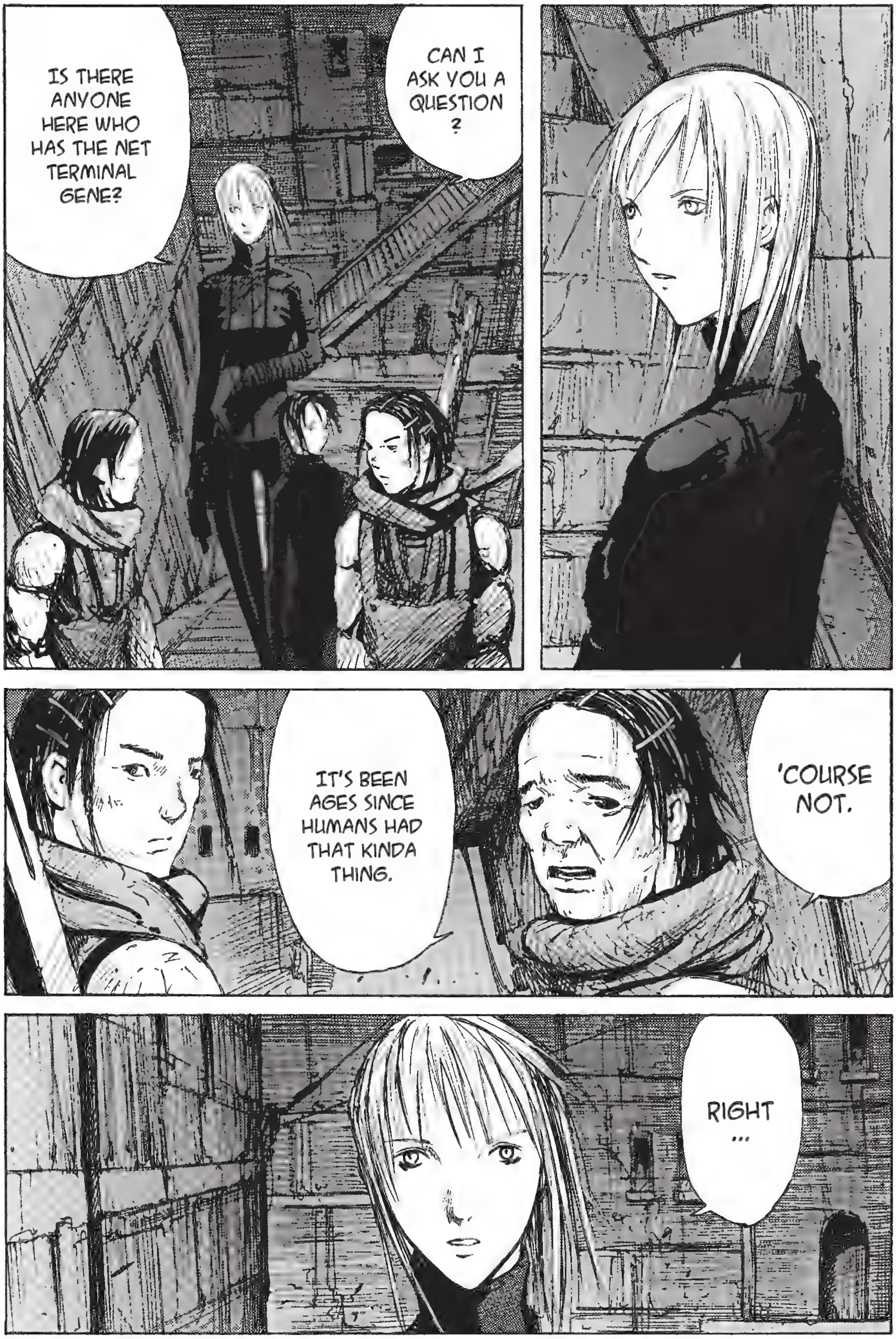

WHAT HAPPENED? WHO'RE THEY?!
THERE WERE SAFEGUARDS ATTACKING 'EM!
WHAAAAAT?!
SUTEZOU, IS THIS MAN DEAD?
NO, HE ISN'T.
SUCH A TALL YOUNG LADY...
THAT MUST'VE BEEN TOUGH! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

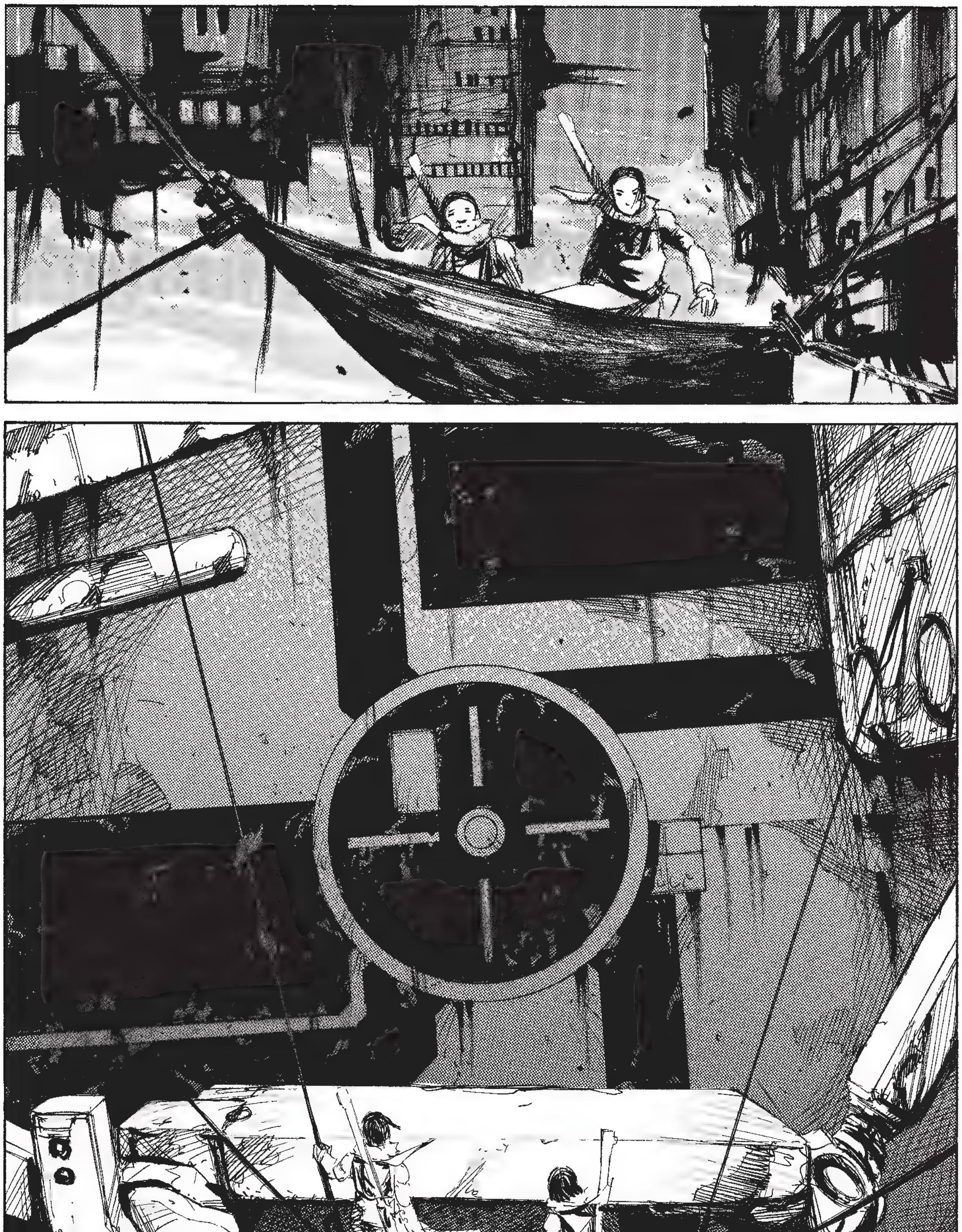

SUTE!

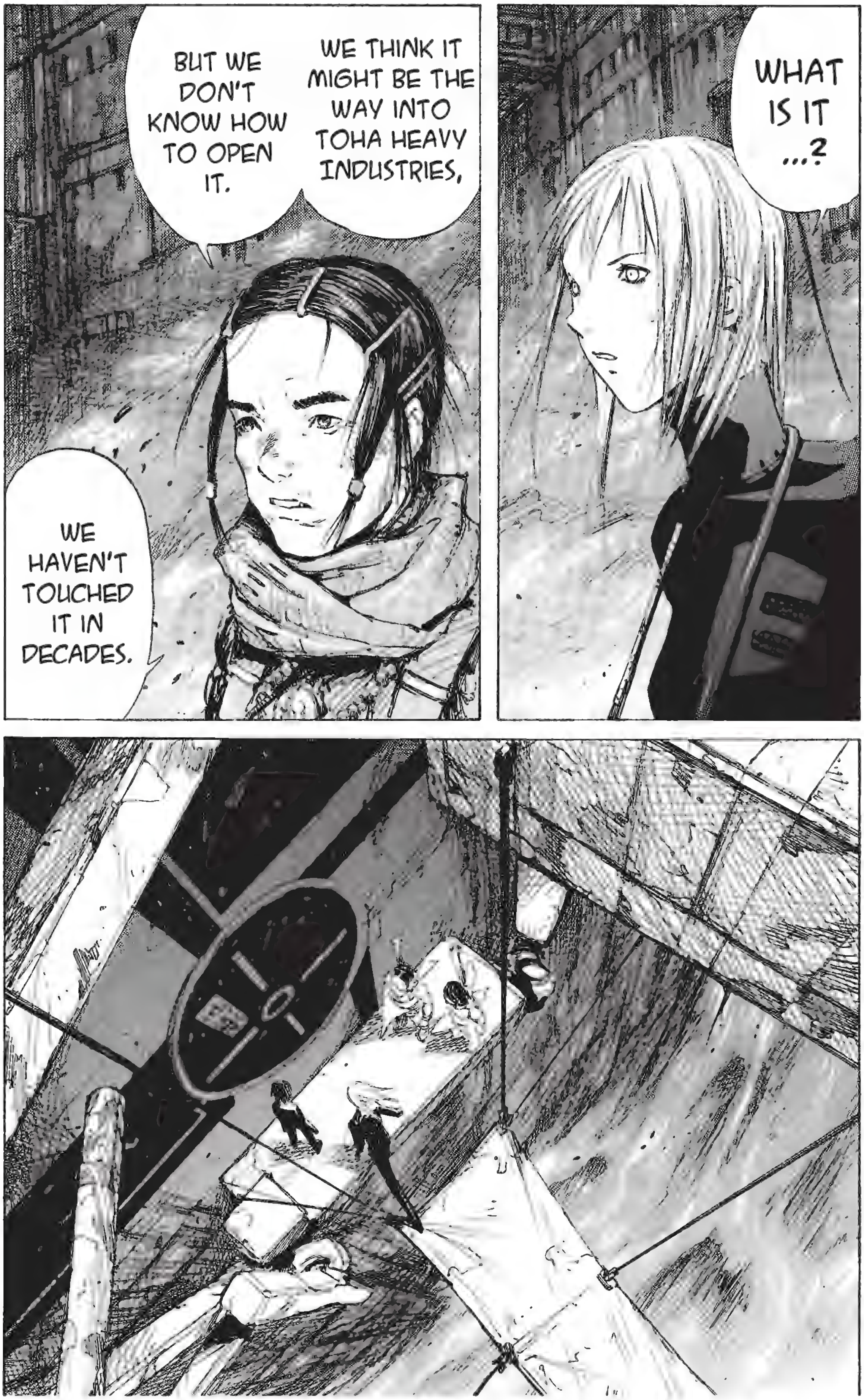

ZURU! WILL YOU TAKE A LOOK AT HIM?
WHAT'S ALL THIS BLOOD?
IT'S NOT MINE, IT'S FROM THE SAFEGUARDS! I'M FINE!
HISSS

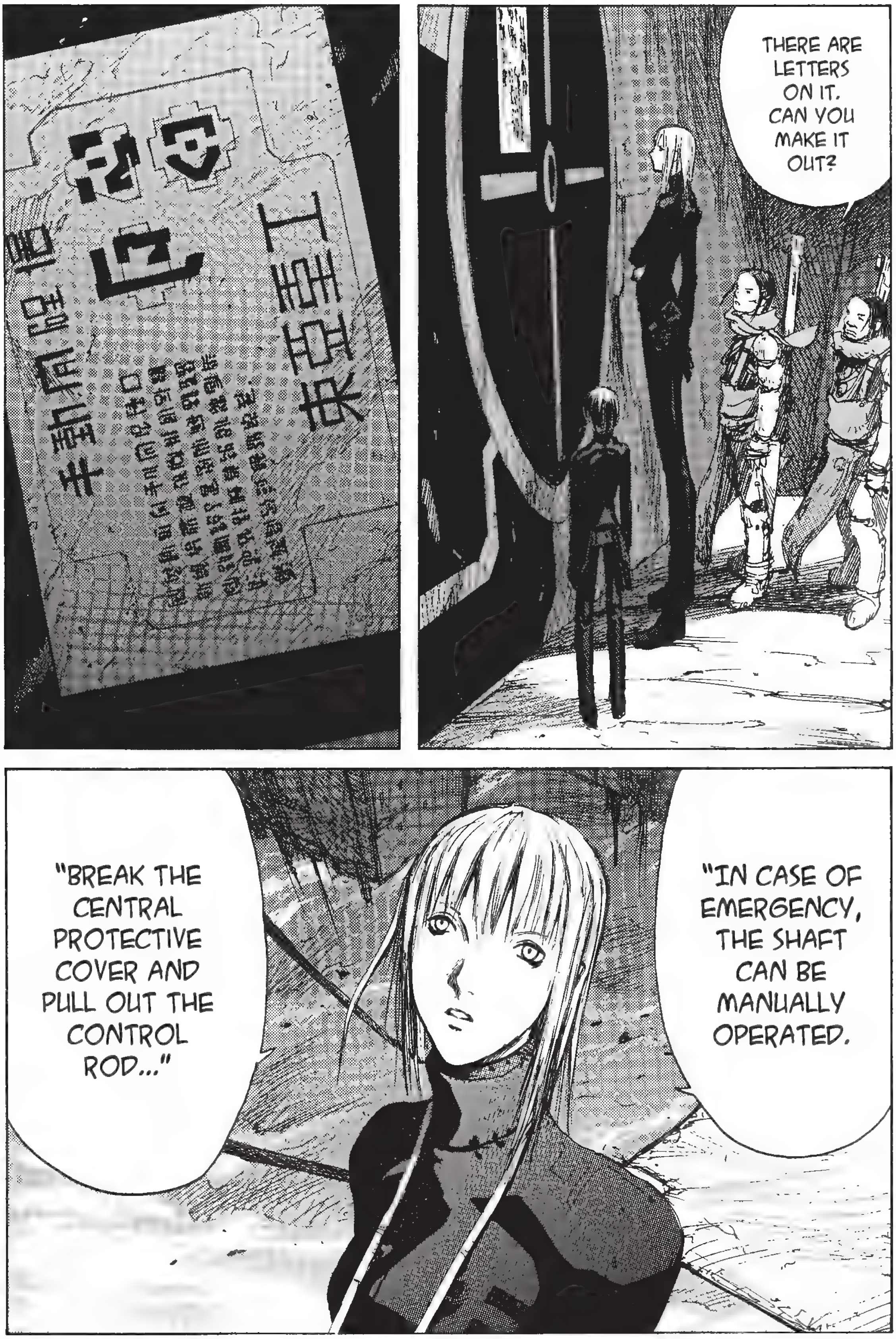

LEAVE THE REST TO ZURU.
MISS CIBO, COULD WE TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?
KREAK

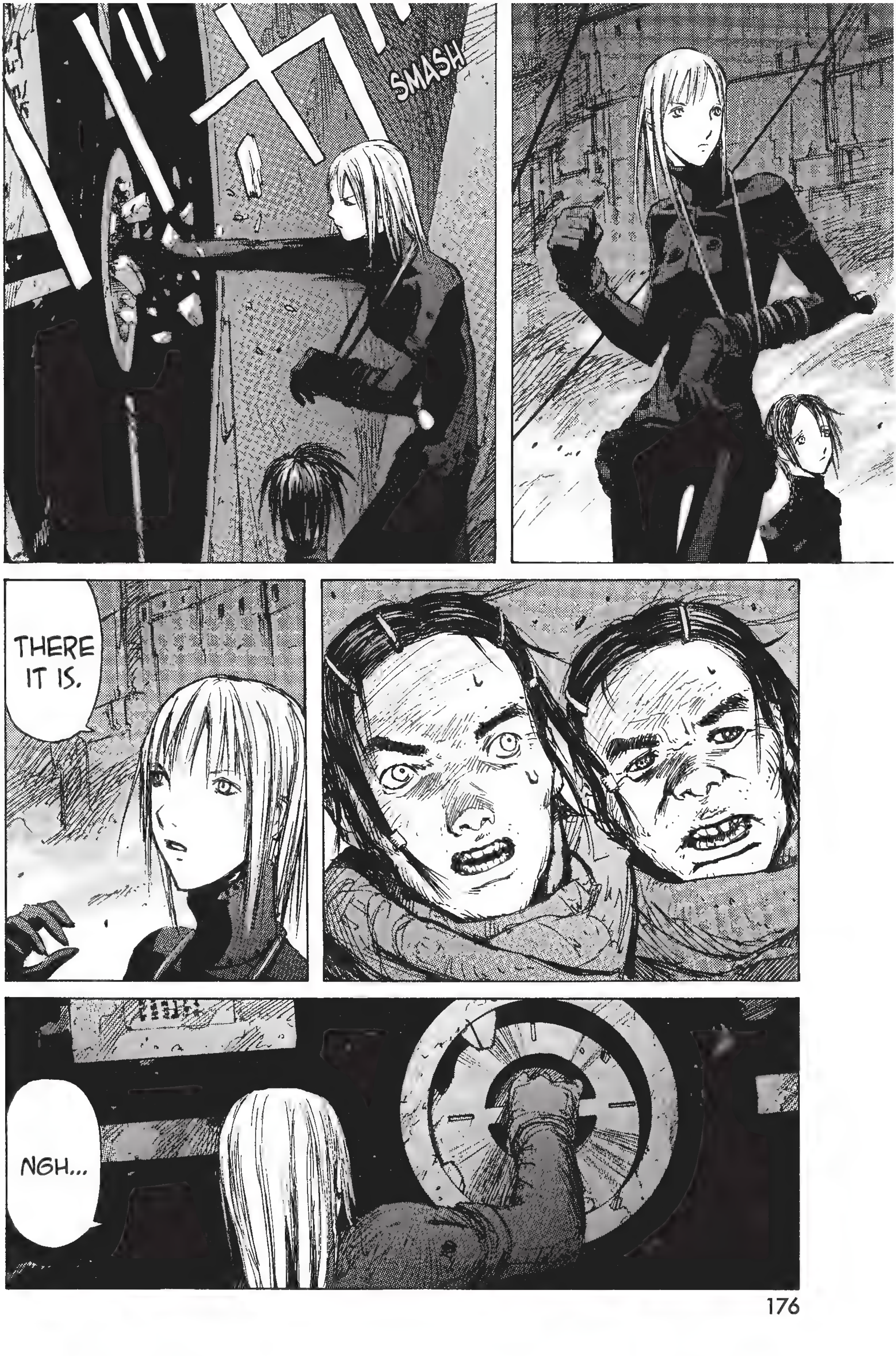

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AT A TIME LIKE THIS, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WE REALLY WANT YOU TO SEE.

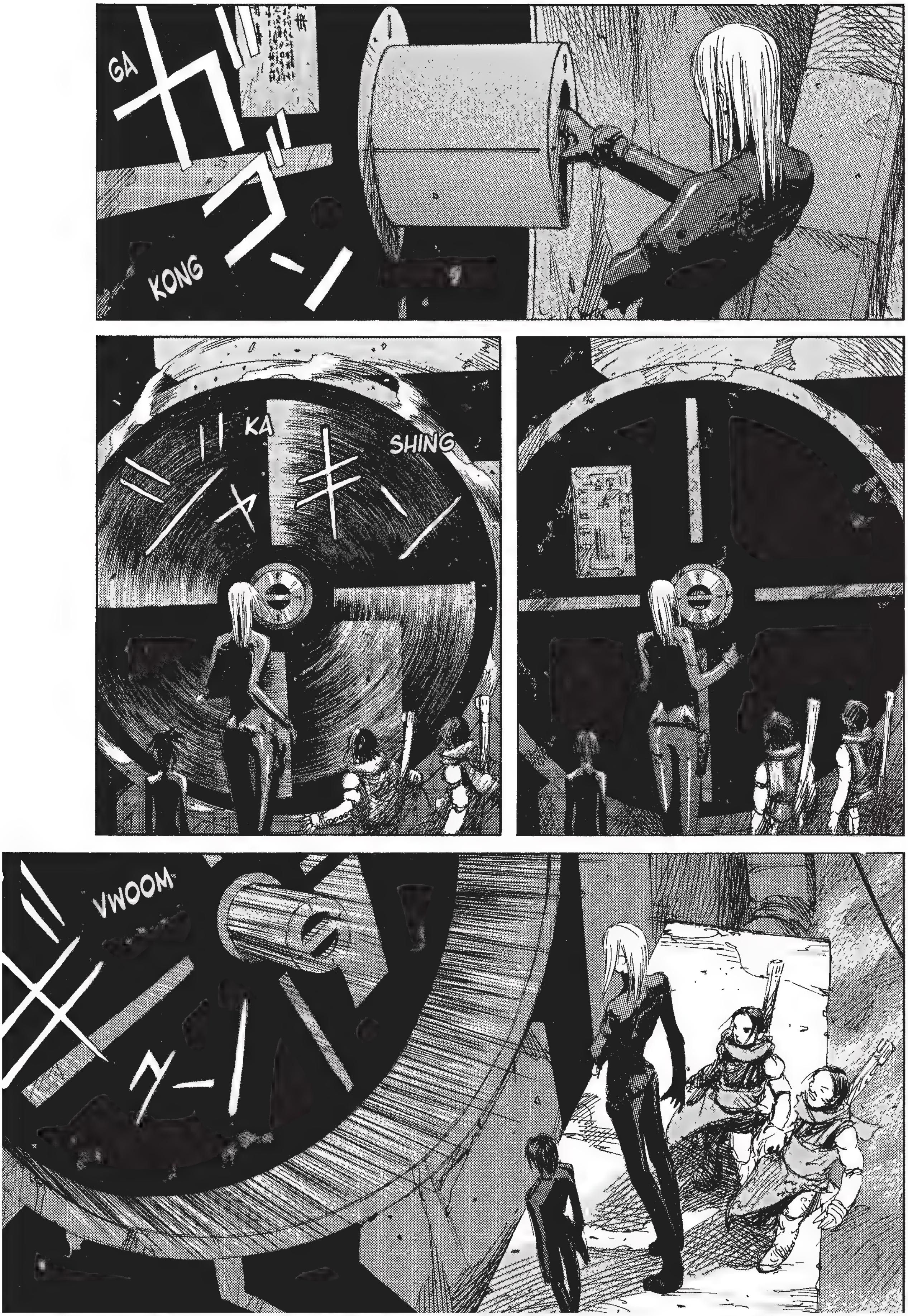

CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
IS THERE ANYONE HERE WHO HAS THE NET TERMINAL GENE?
'COURSE NOT.
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE HUMANS HAD THAT KINDA THING.
RIGHT...

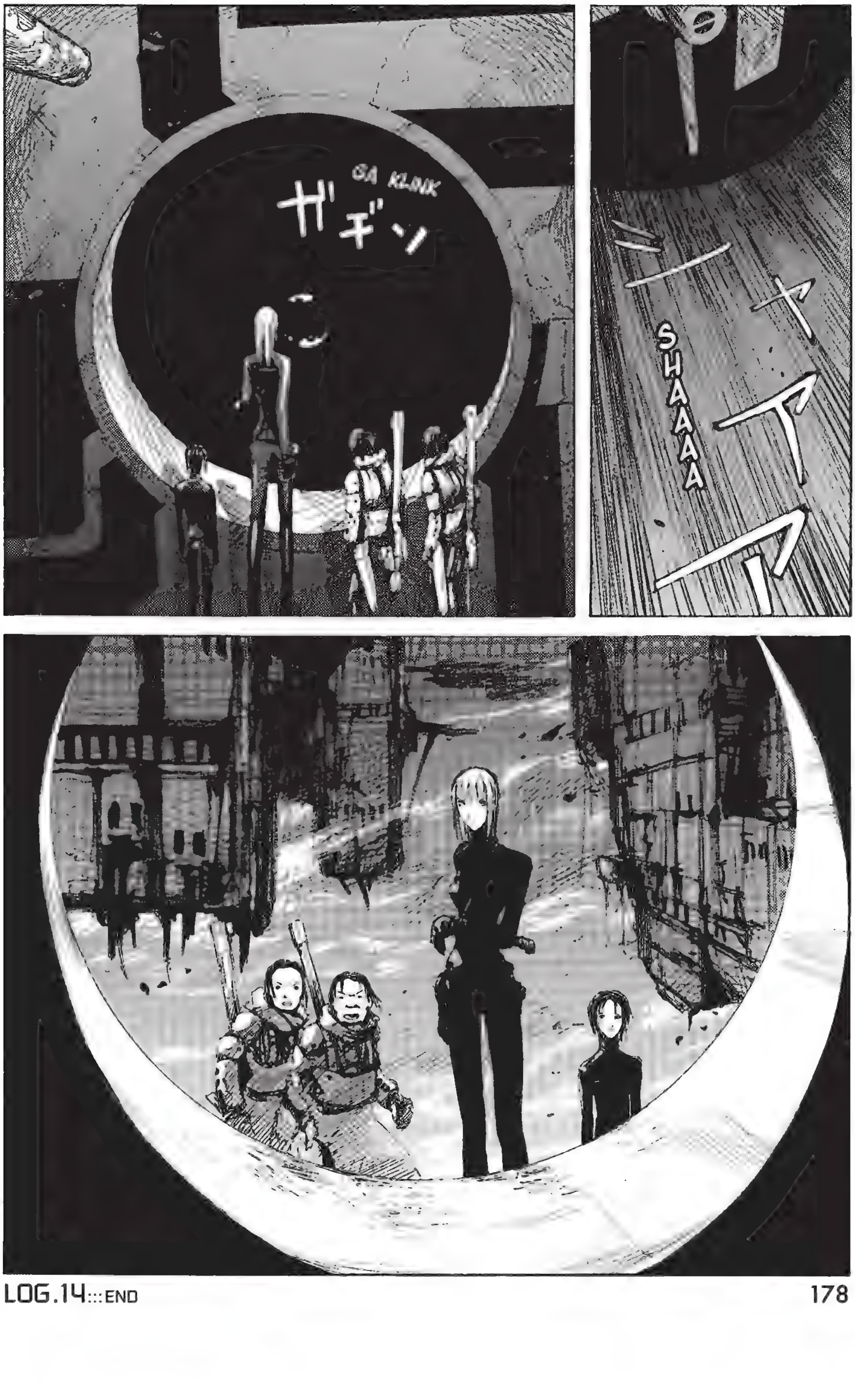



WHAT IS IT ...?
WE THINK IT MIGHT BE THE WAY INTO TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES,
BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO OPEN IT.
WE HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT IN DECADES.


THERE ARE LETTERS ON IT. CAN YOU MAKE IT OUT?
"IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, THE SHAFT CAN BE MANUALLY OPERATED.
"BREAK THE CENTRAL PROTECTIVE COVER AND PULL OUT THE CONTROL ROD..."

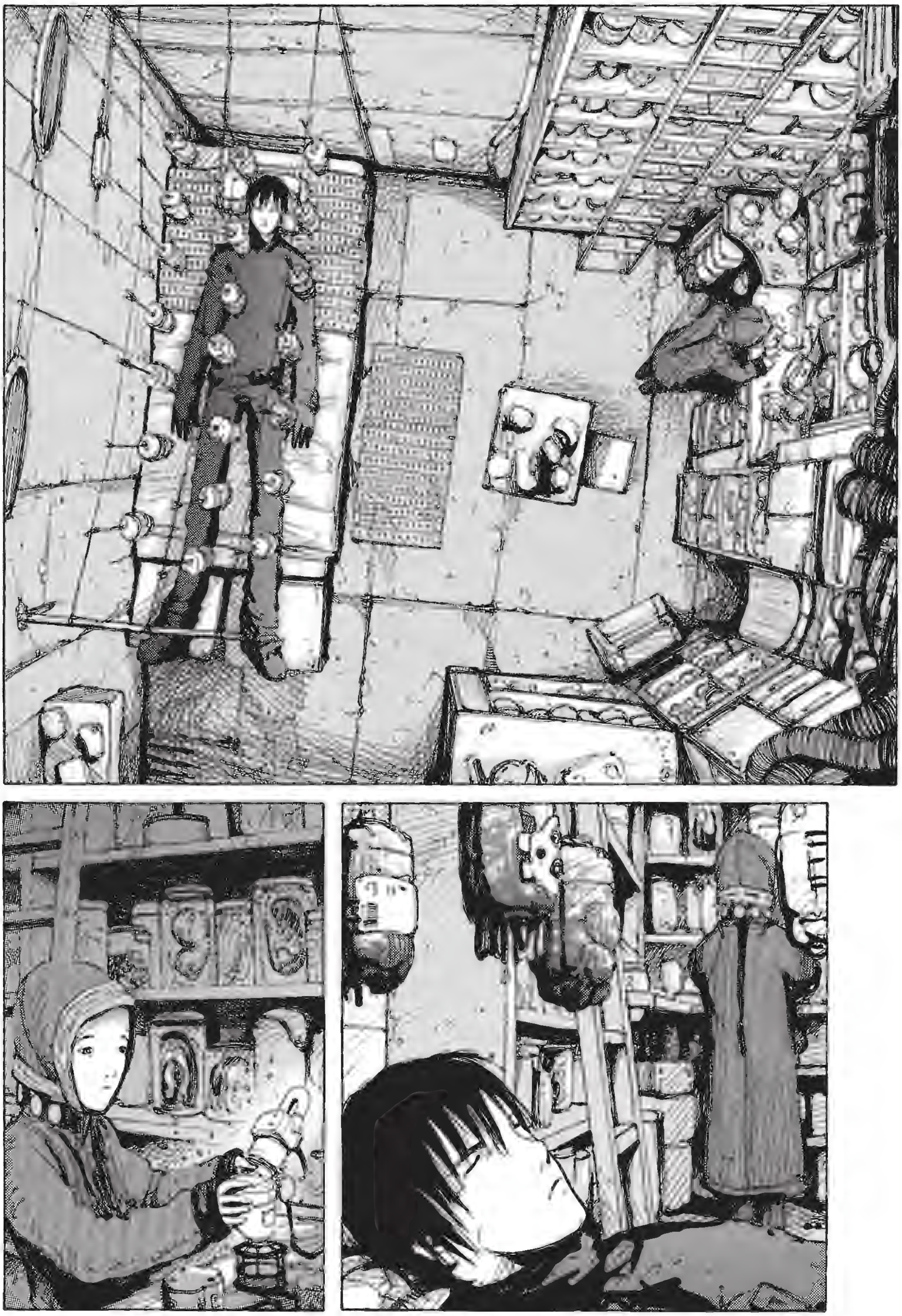

SMASH
THERE IT IS.
NGH...

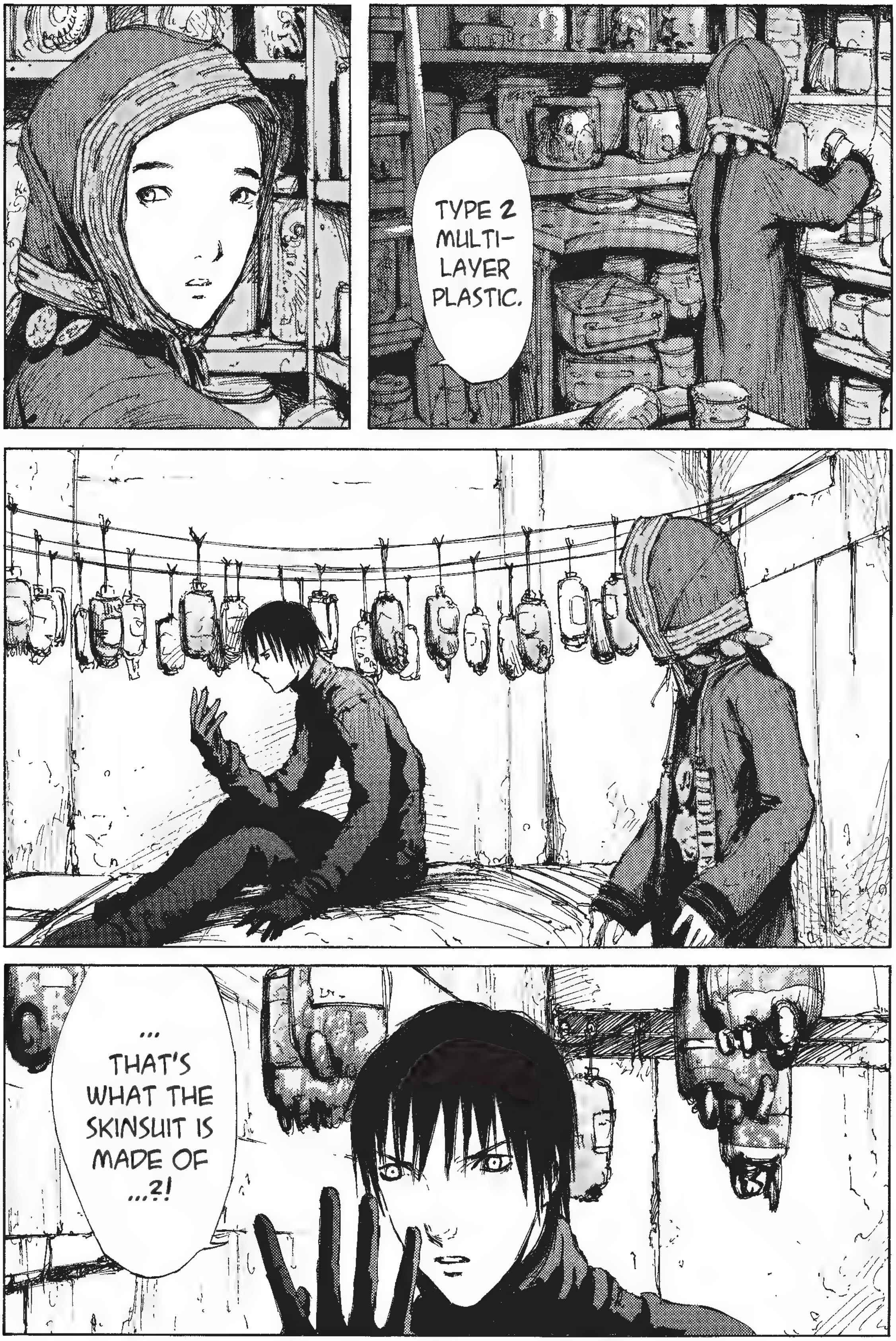

GA
KONG
KA
SHING
VWOOM

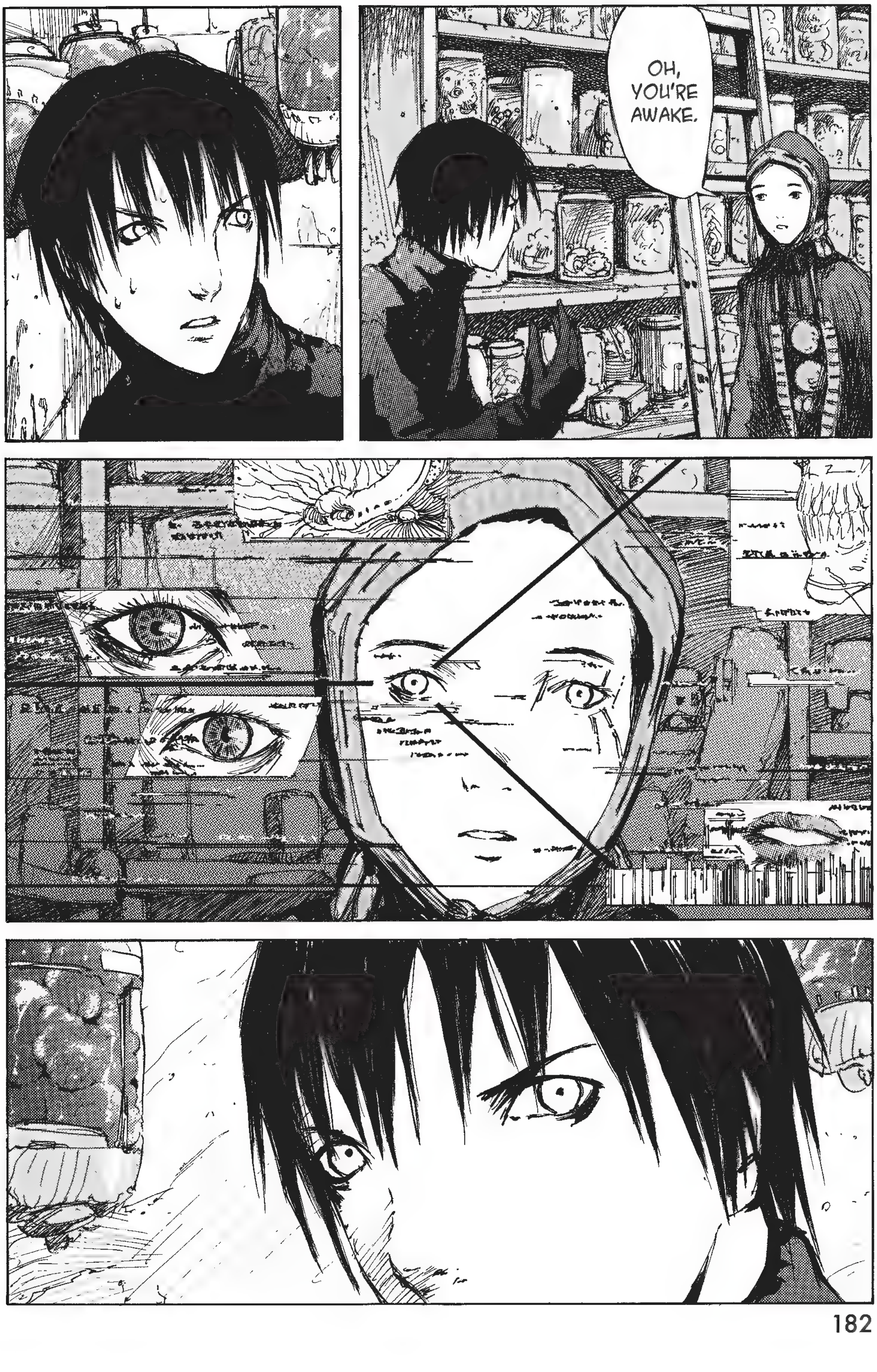

シャアア
SHAAAA
ガギン
GA KLINK

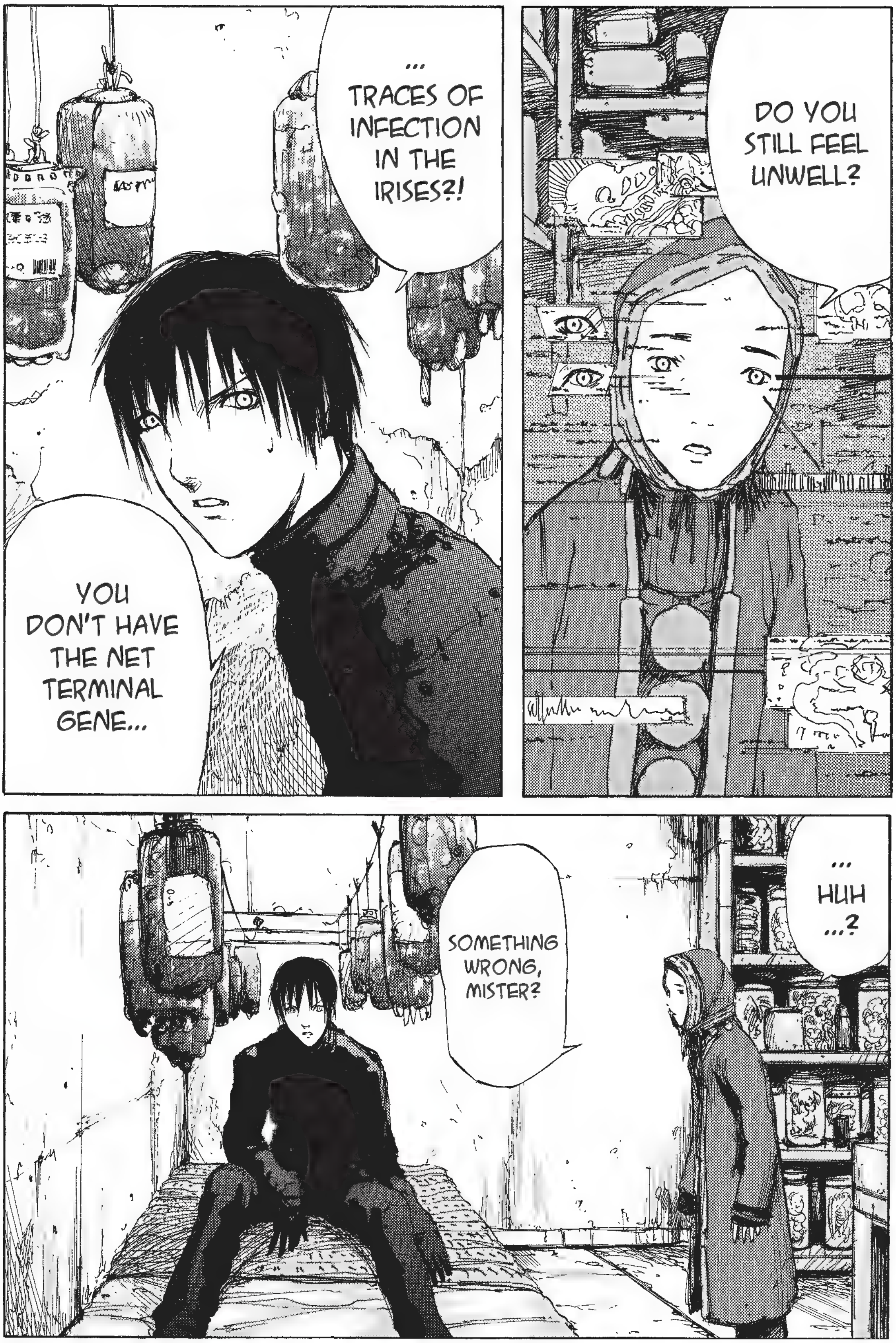
::LOG.15::

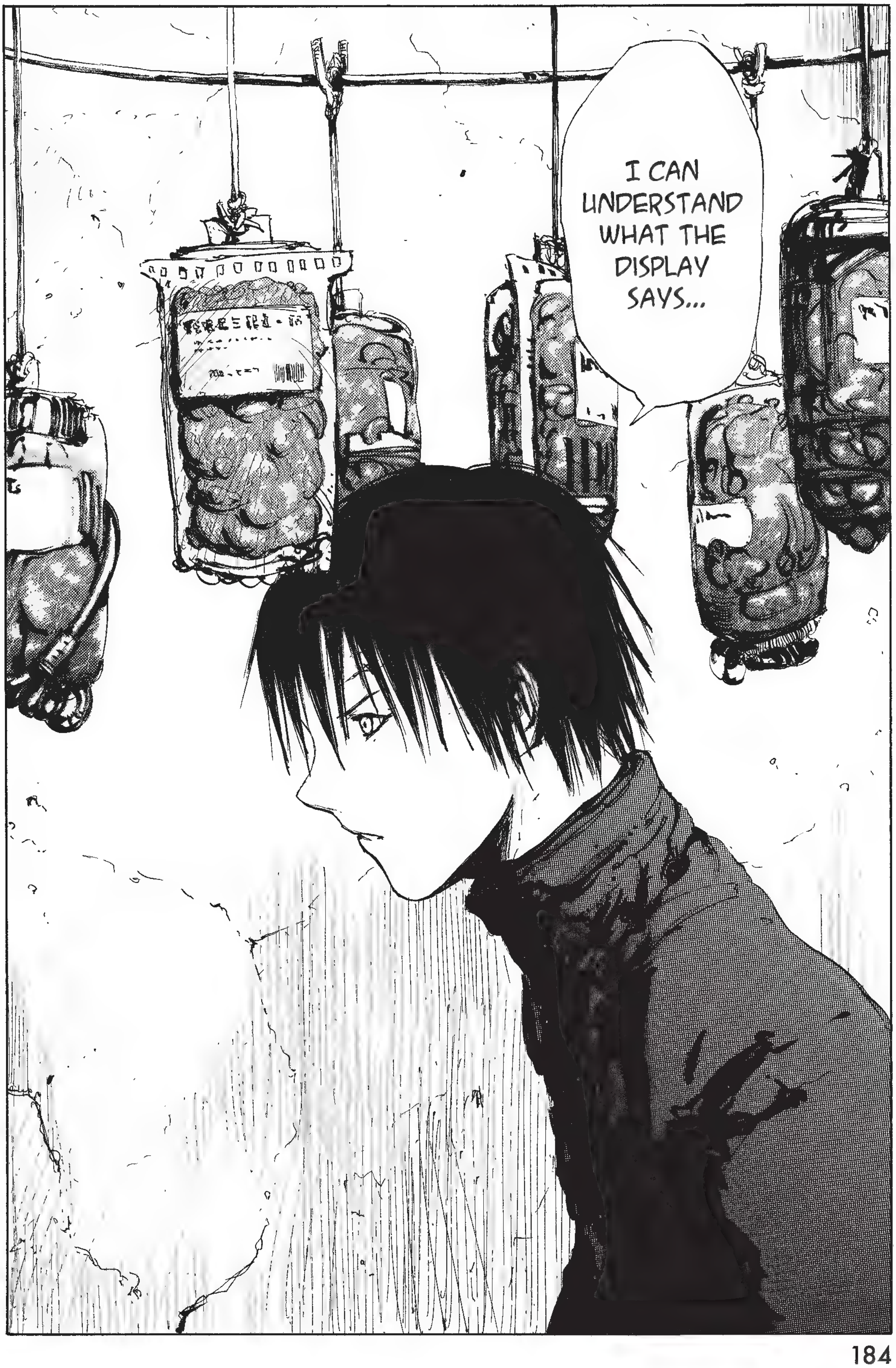
AWAKENING

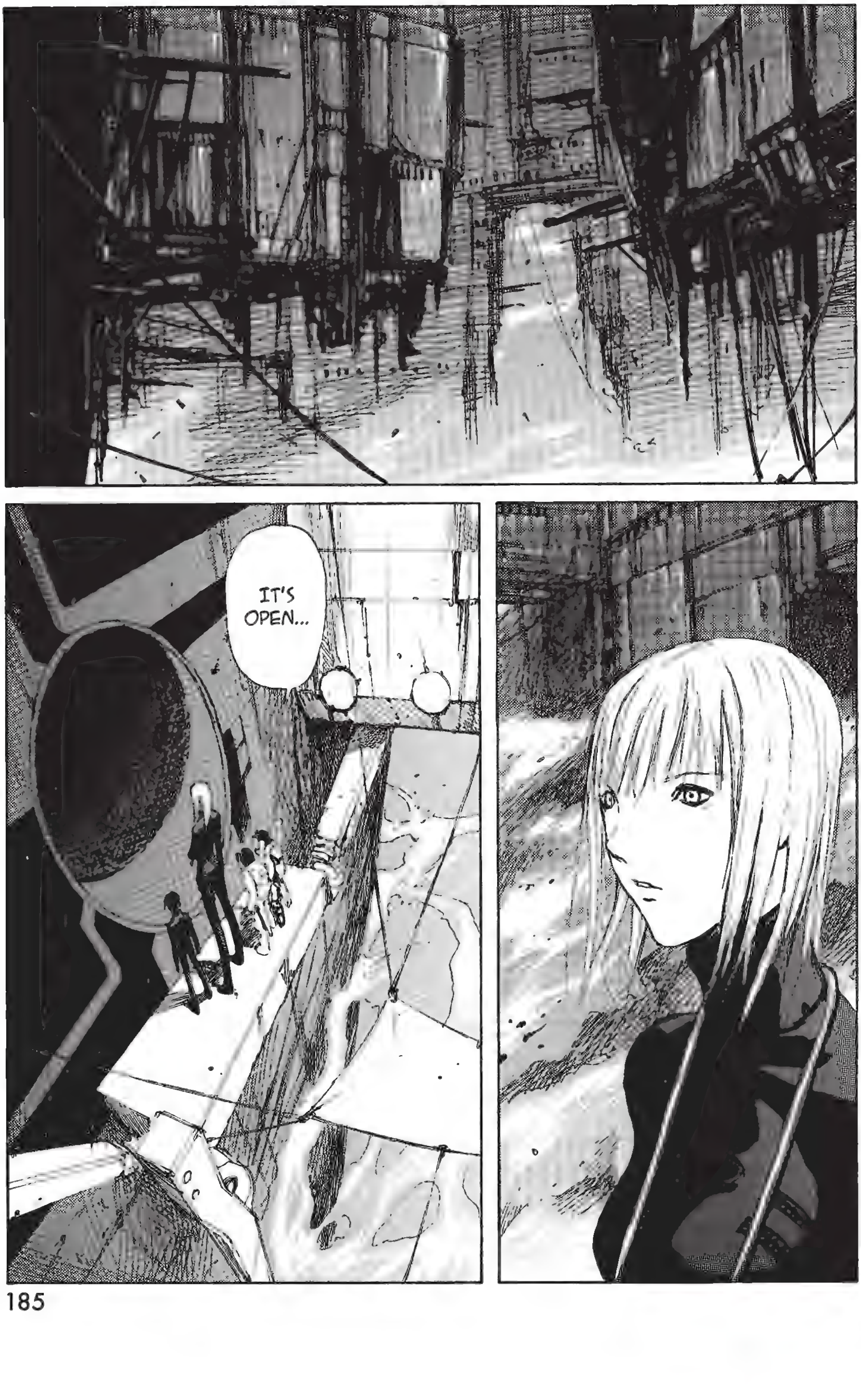


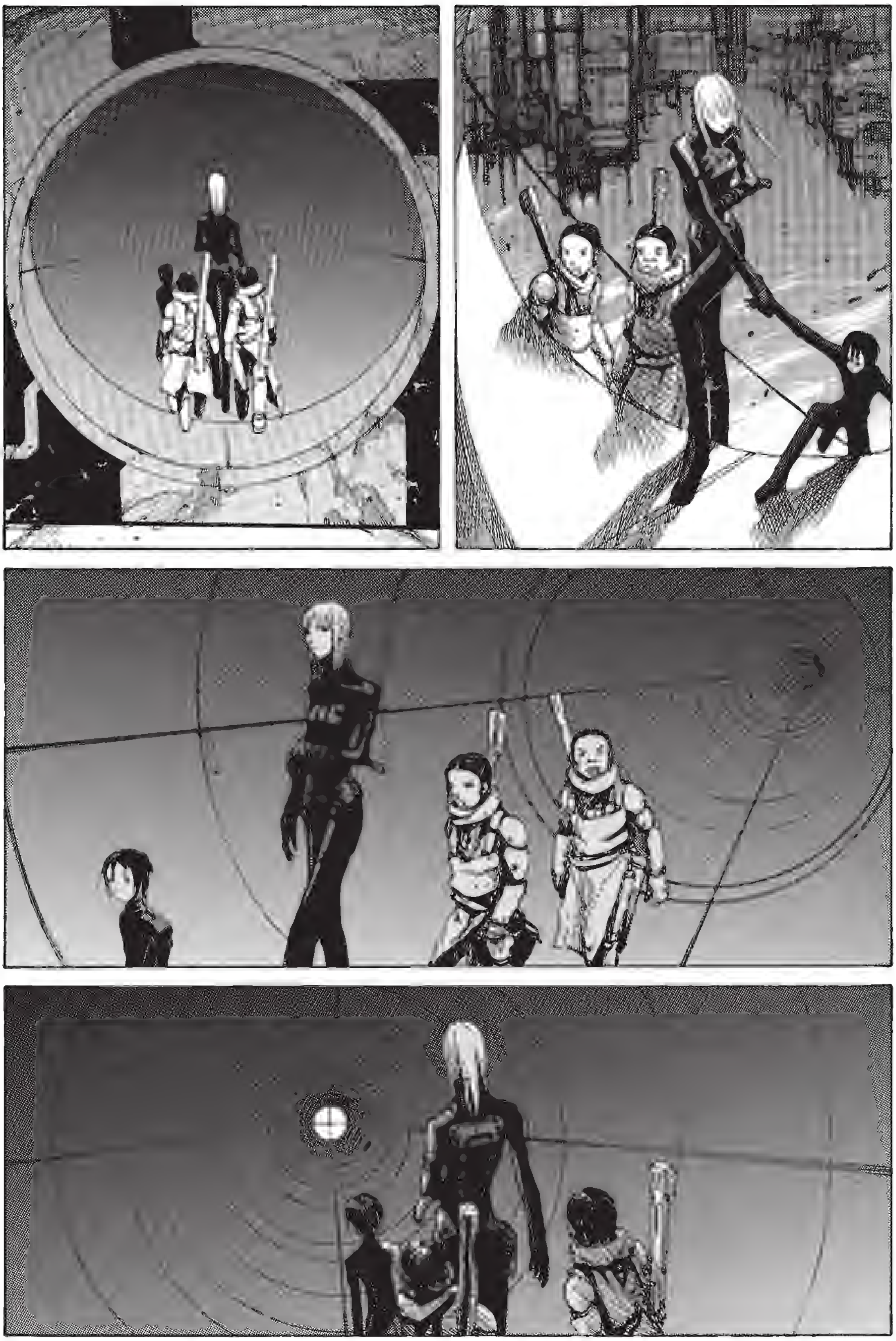

TYPE 2 MULTI-LAYER PLASTIC.
... THAT'S WHAT THE SKINSUIT IS MADE OF ...?!

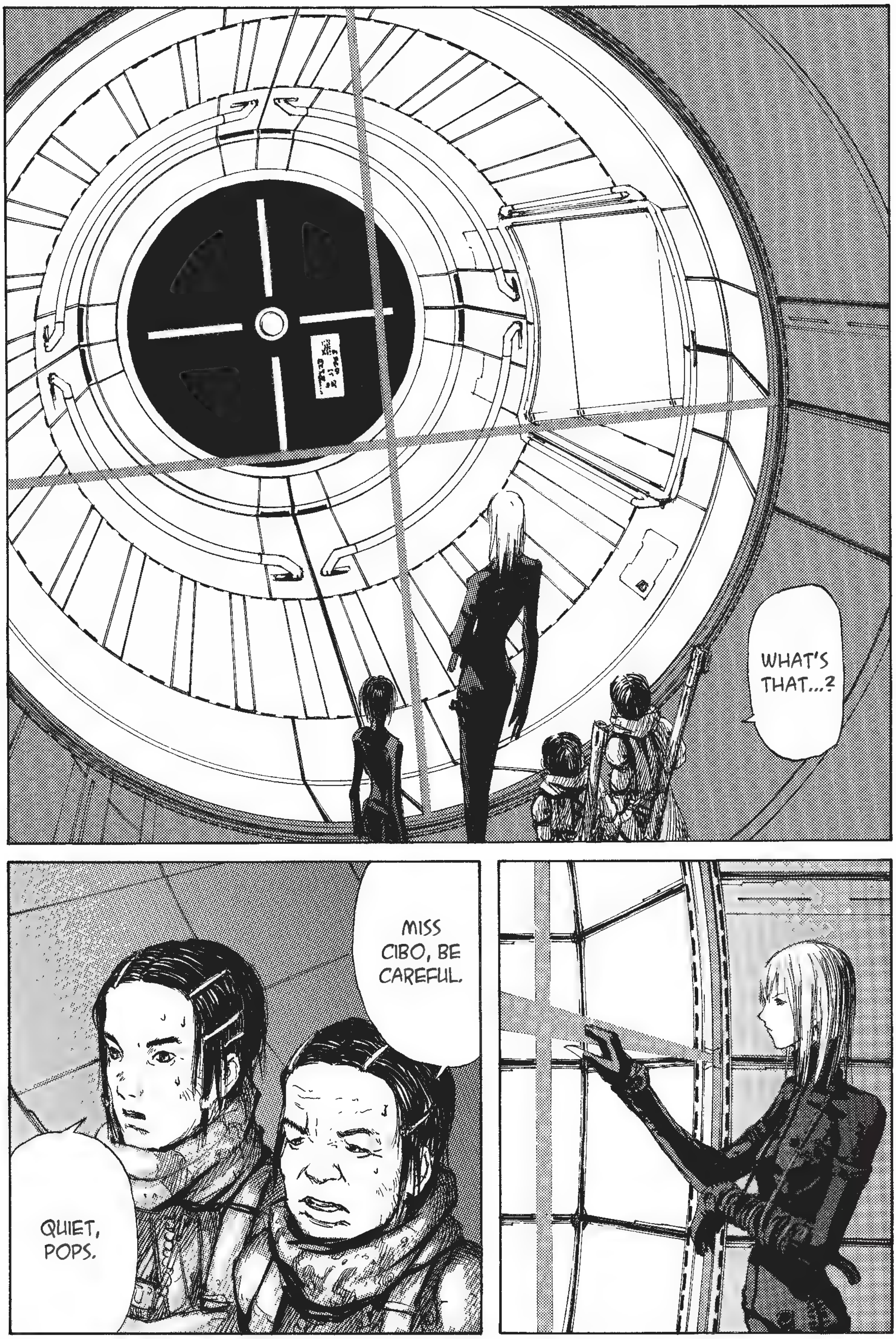

OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.

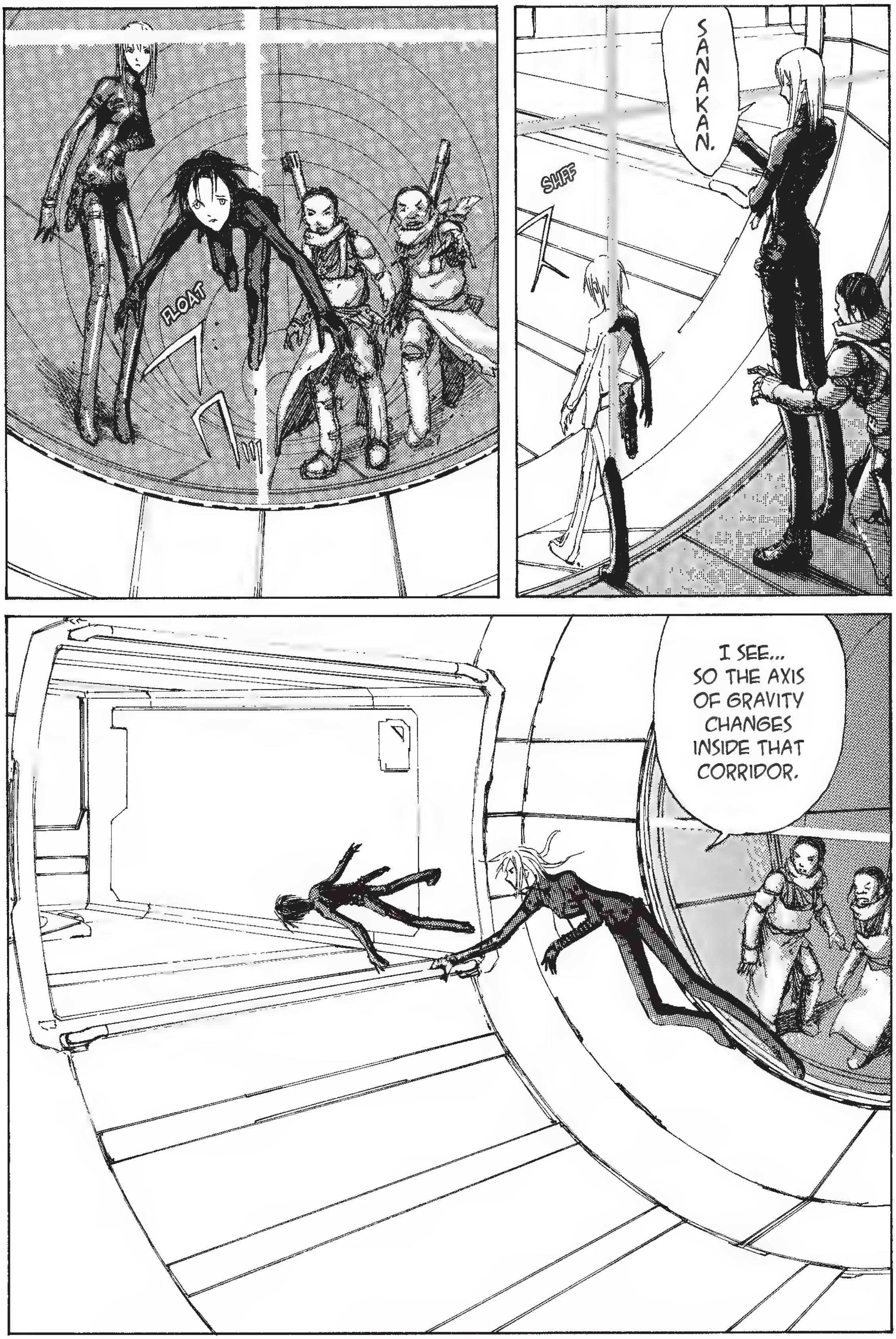

DO YOU STILL FEEL UNWELL?
... TRACES OF INFECTION IN THE IRISES?!
YOU DON'T HAVE THE NET TERMINAL GENE...
... HUH ...?
SOMETHING WRONG, MISTER?

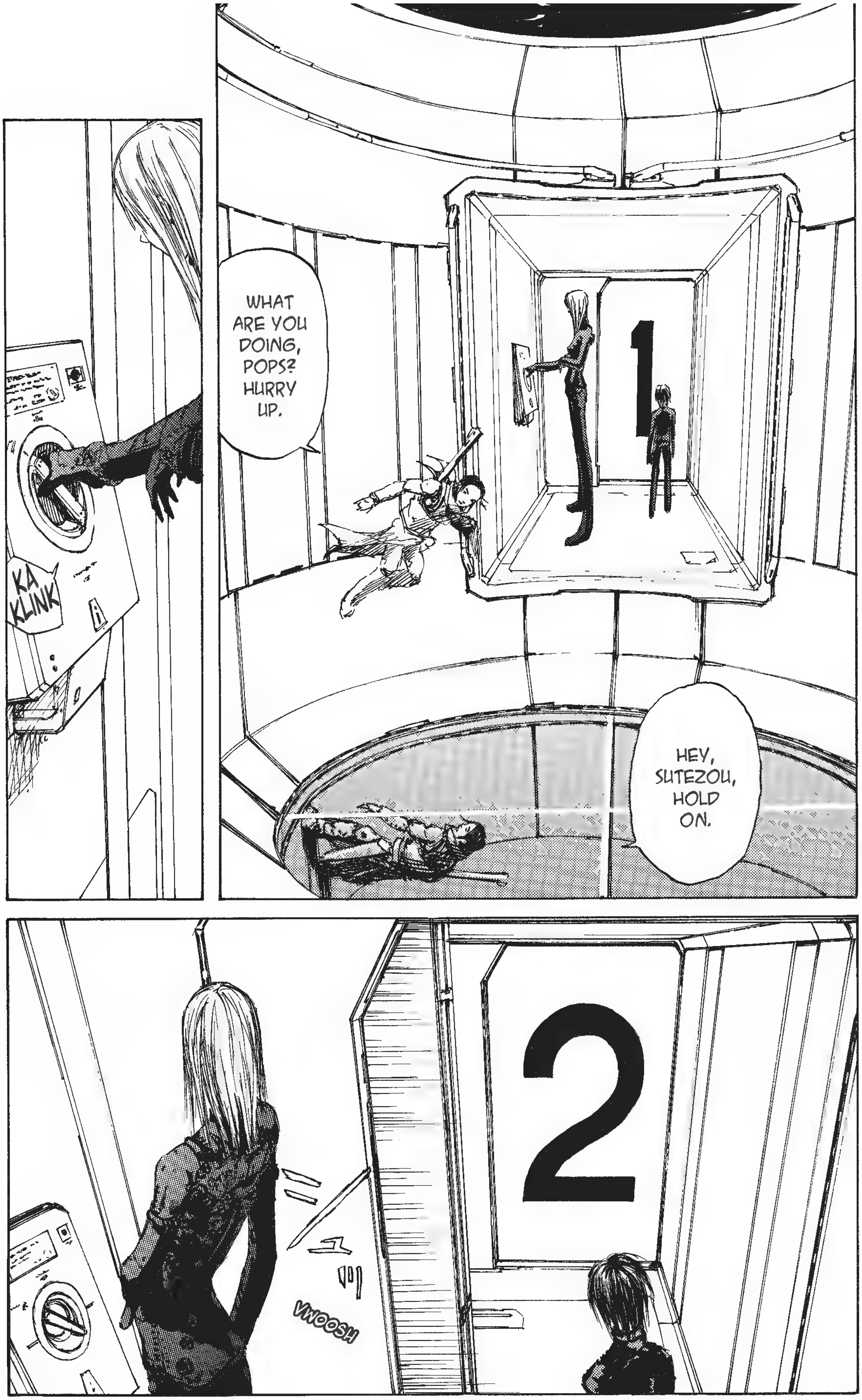

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT THE DISPLAY SAYS...

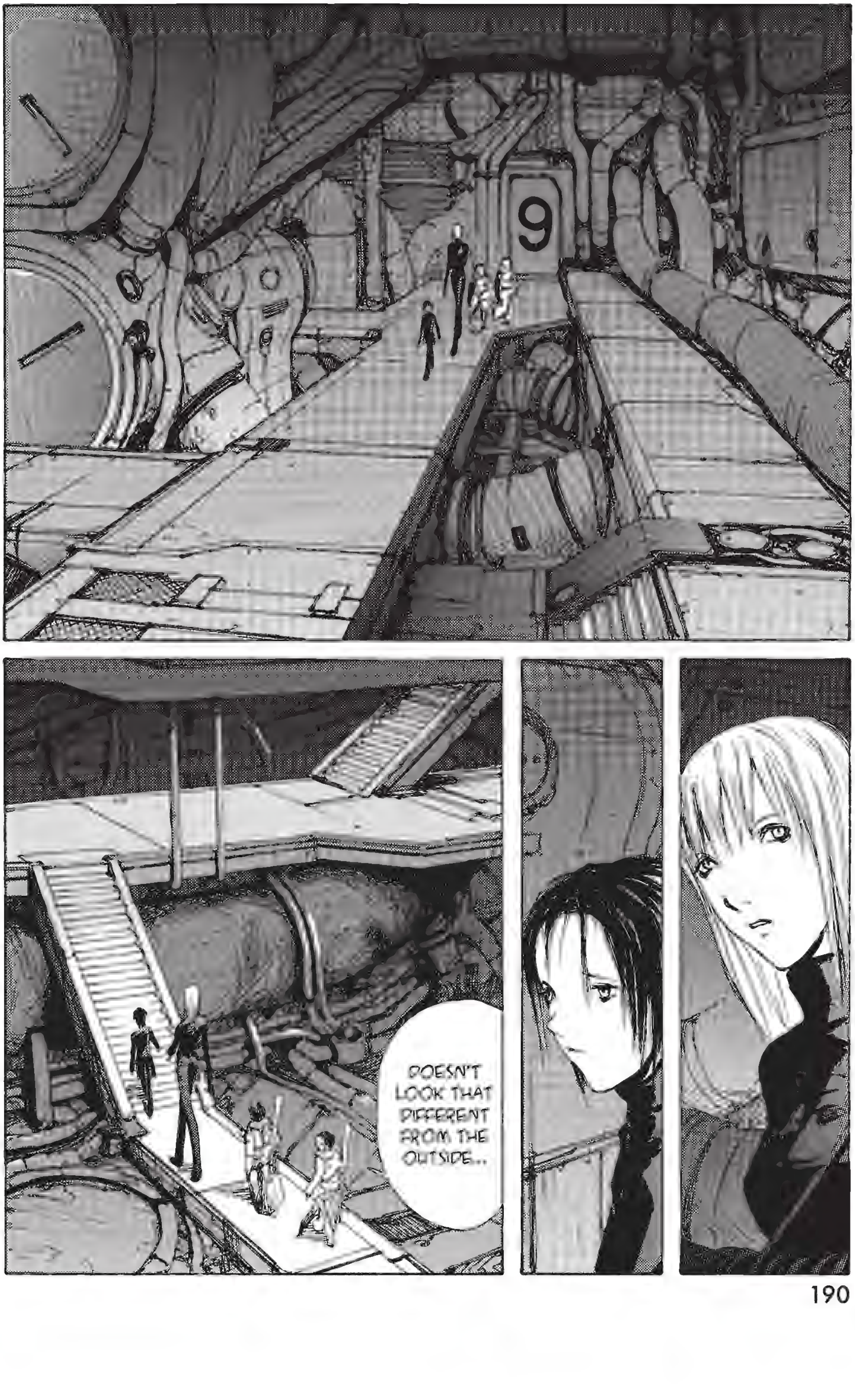

IT'S OPEN...

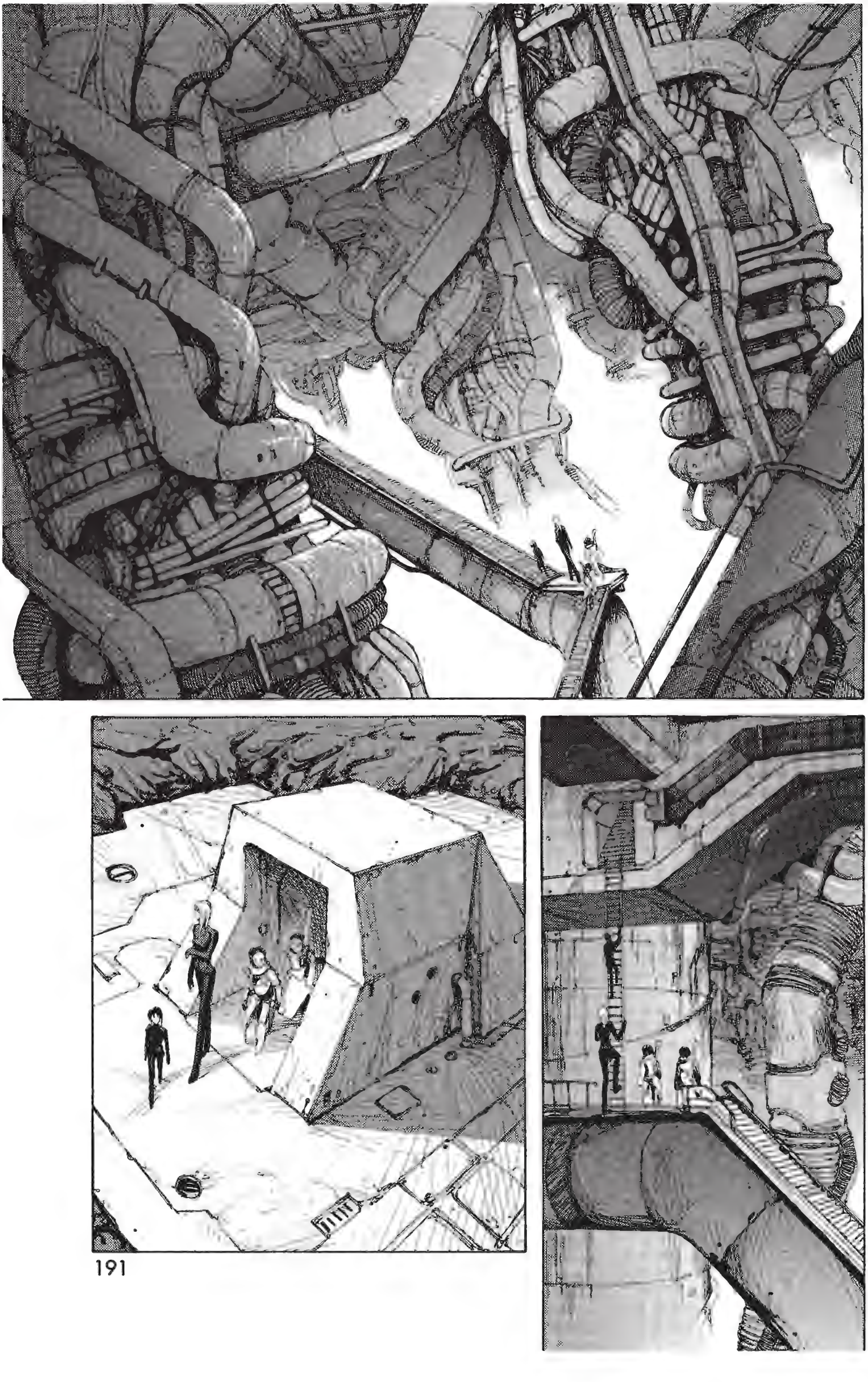



WHAT'S THAT...?
MISS CIBO, BE CAREFUL.
QUIET, POPS.


SANAKAN.
SHFF
FLOAT
I SEE... SO THE AXIS OF GRAVITY CHANGES INSIDE THAT CORRIDOR.

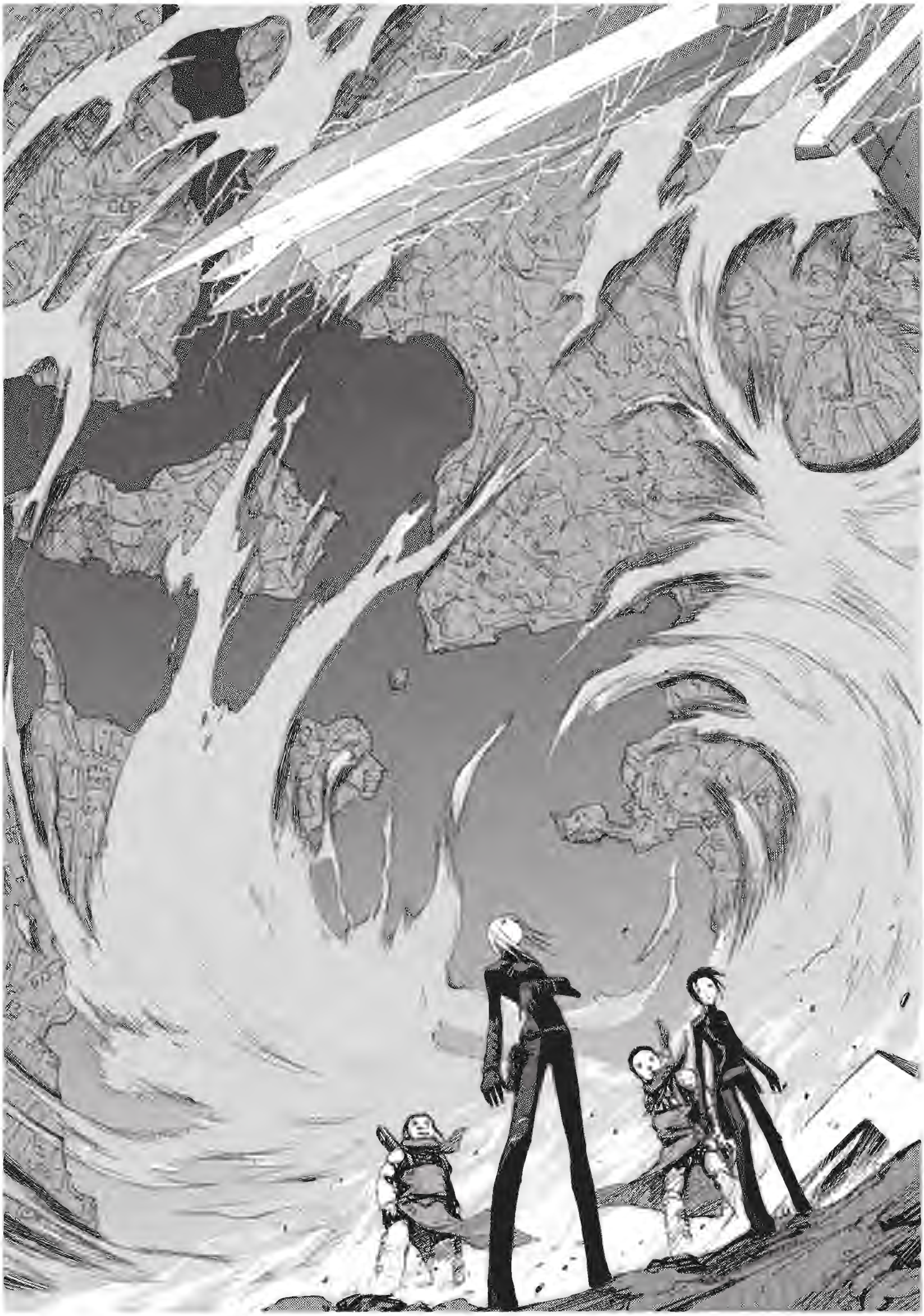

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, POPS? HURRY UP.
HEY, SUTEZOU, HOLD ON.
KA KLINK
VWOOSH

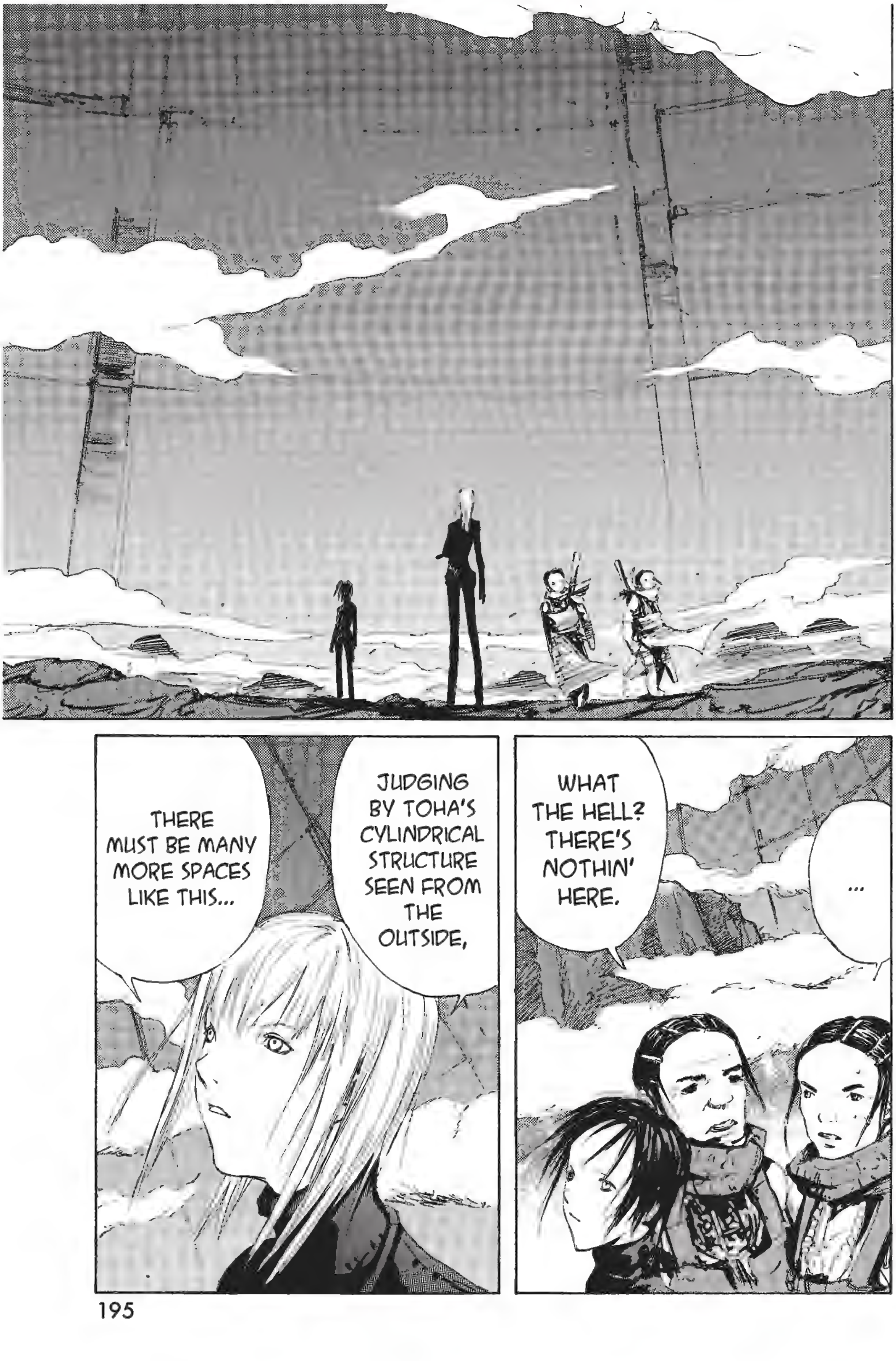

9
DOESN'T LOOK THAT DIFFERENT FROM THE OUTSIDE...

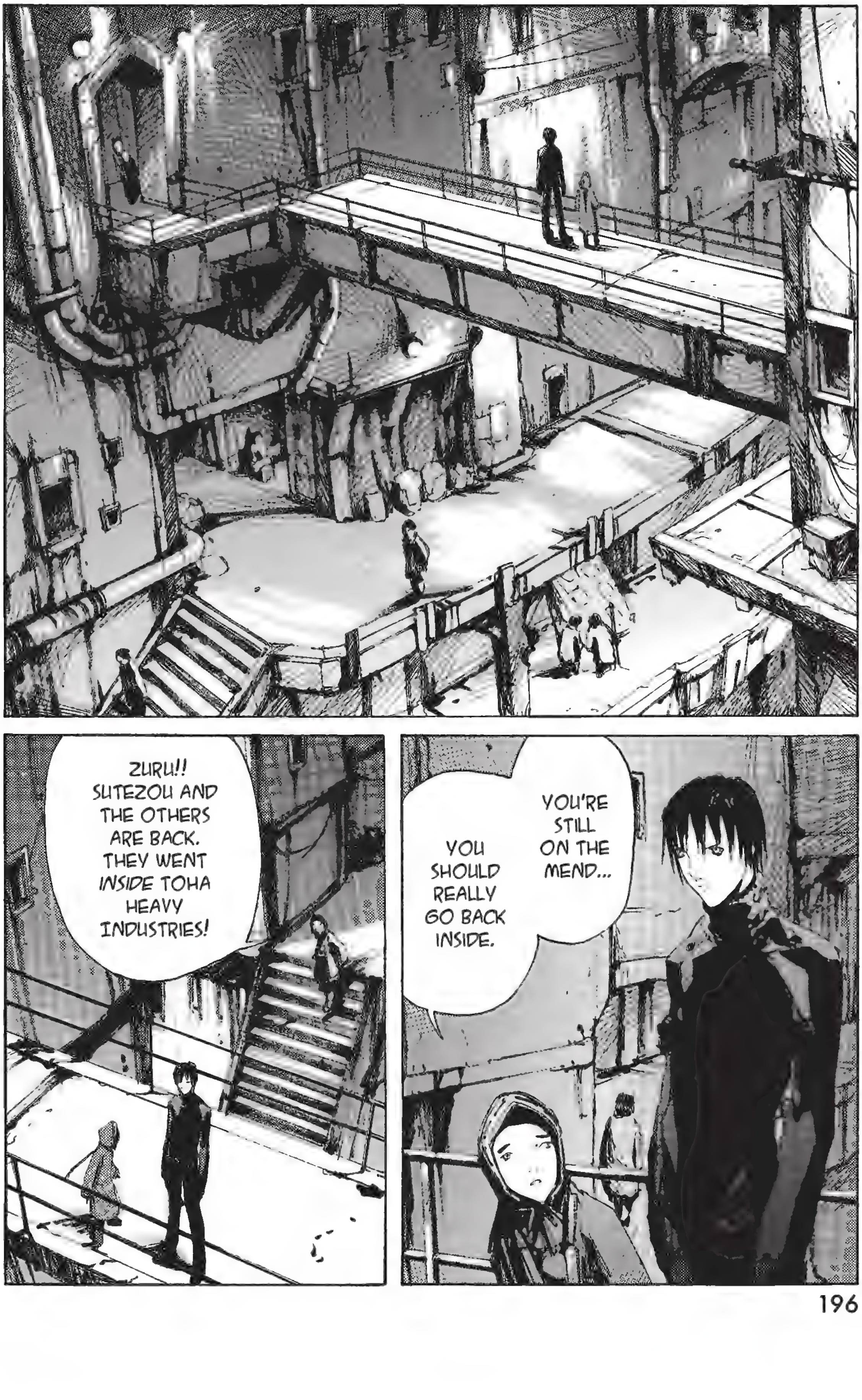


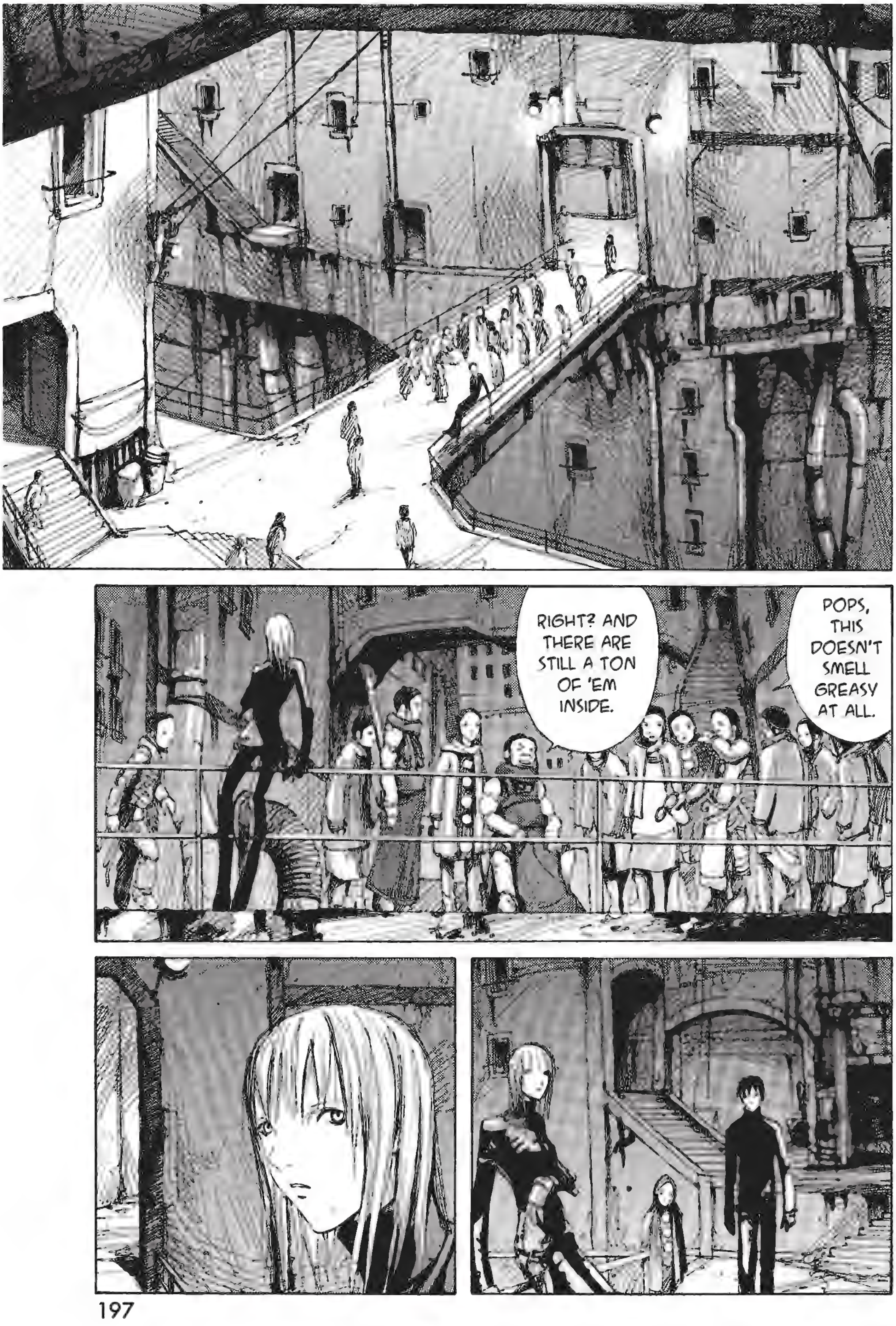
ゴオ゛
ROOAAR

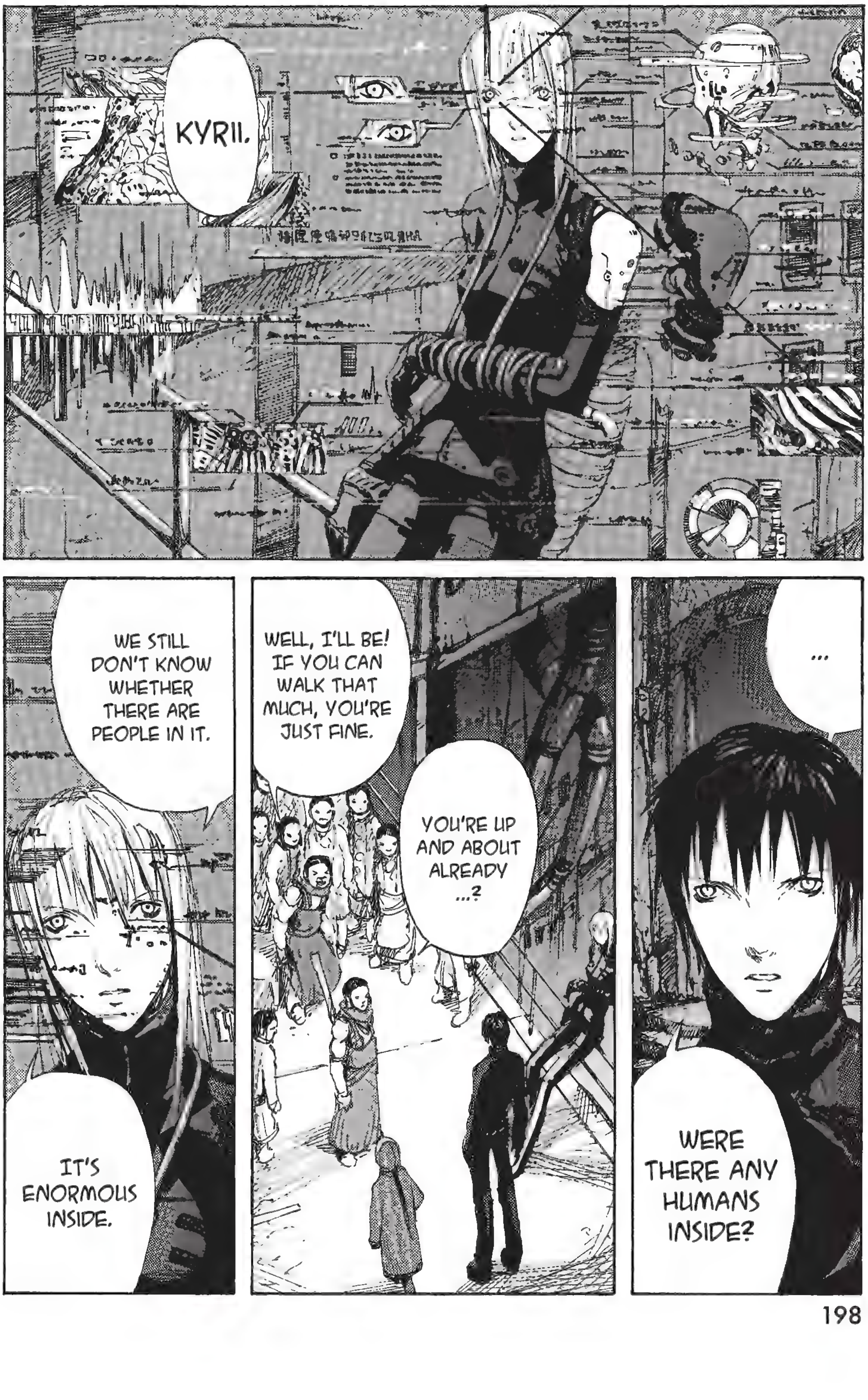
ゴゴゴゴ…
RRRUMBLE

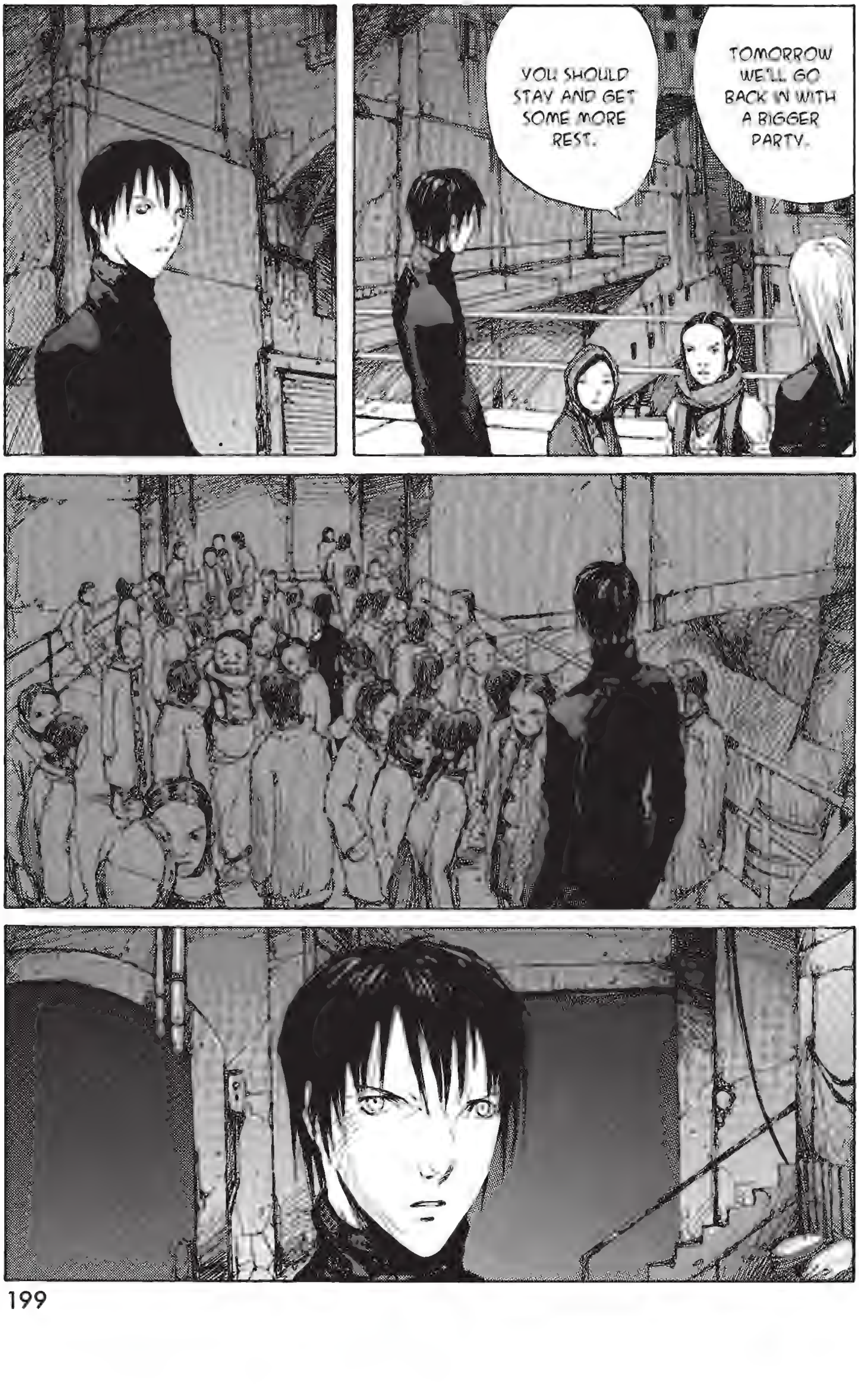


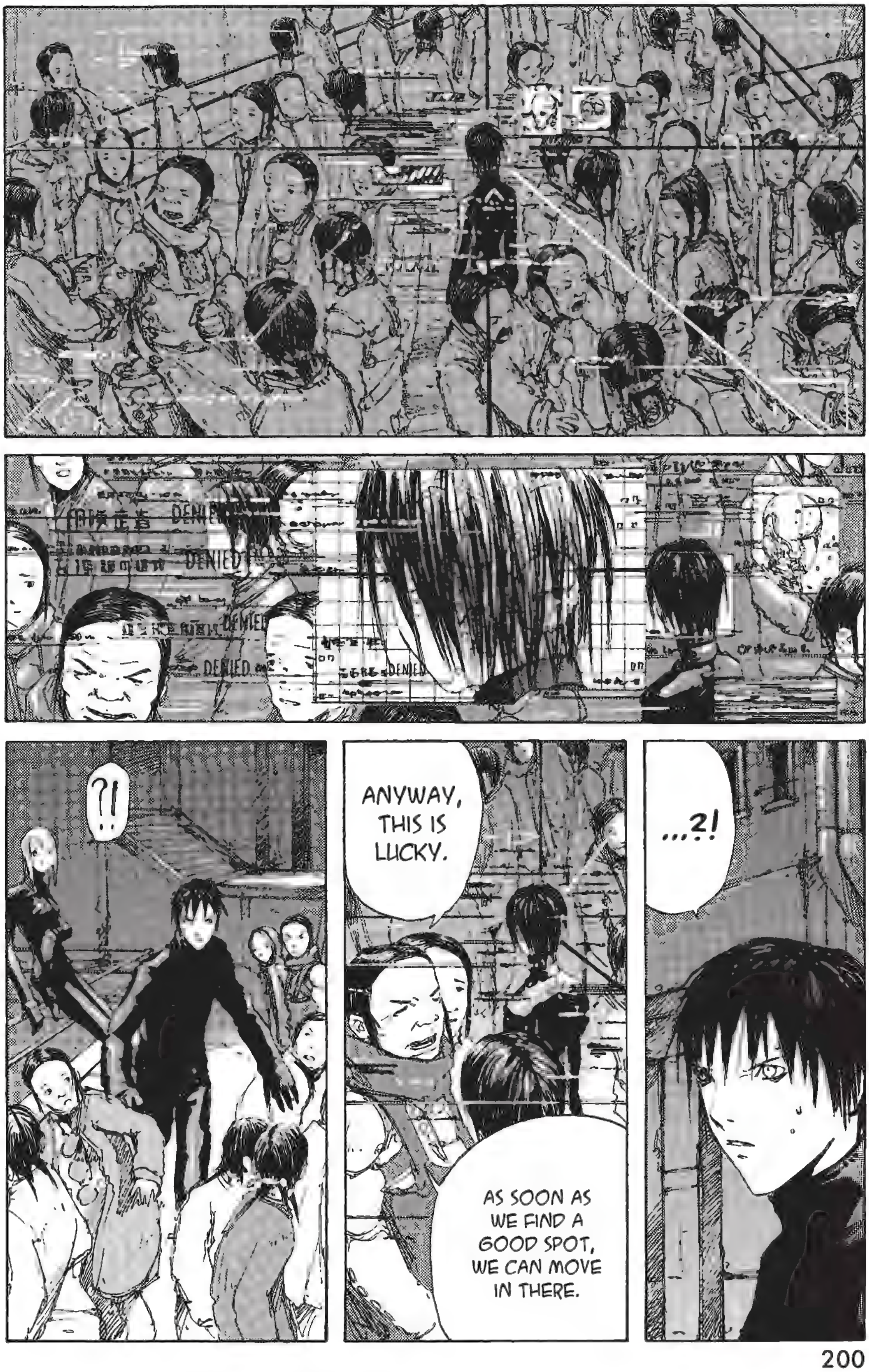

WHAT THE HELL? THERE'S NOTHIN' HERE.
...
JUDGING BY TOHA'S CYLINDRICAL STRUCTURE SEEN FROM THE OUTSIDE,
THERE MUST BE MANY MORE SPACES LIKE THIS...

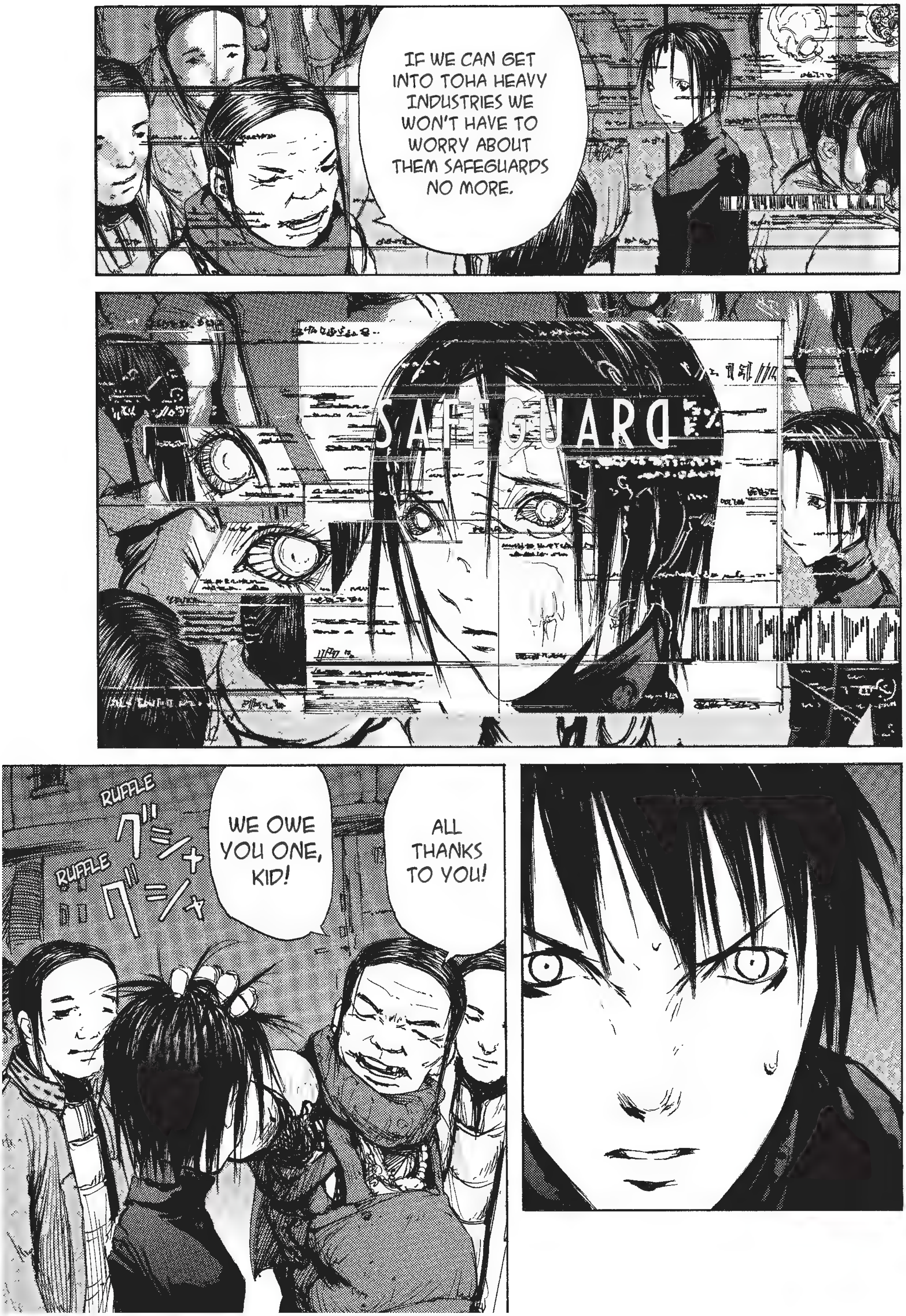

YOU'RE STILL ON THE MEND...
YOU SHOULD REALLY GO BACK INSIDE.
ZURU!! SUTEZOU AND THE OTHERS ARE BACK. THEY WENT INSIDE TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES!

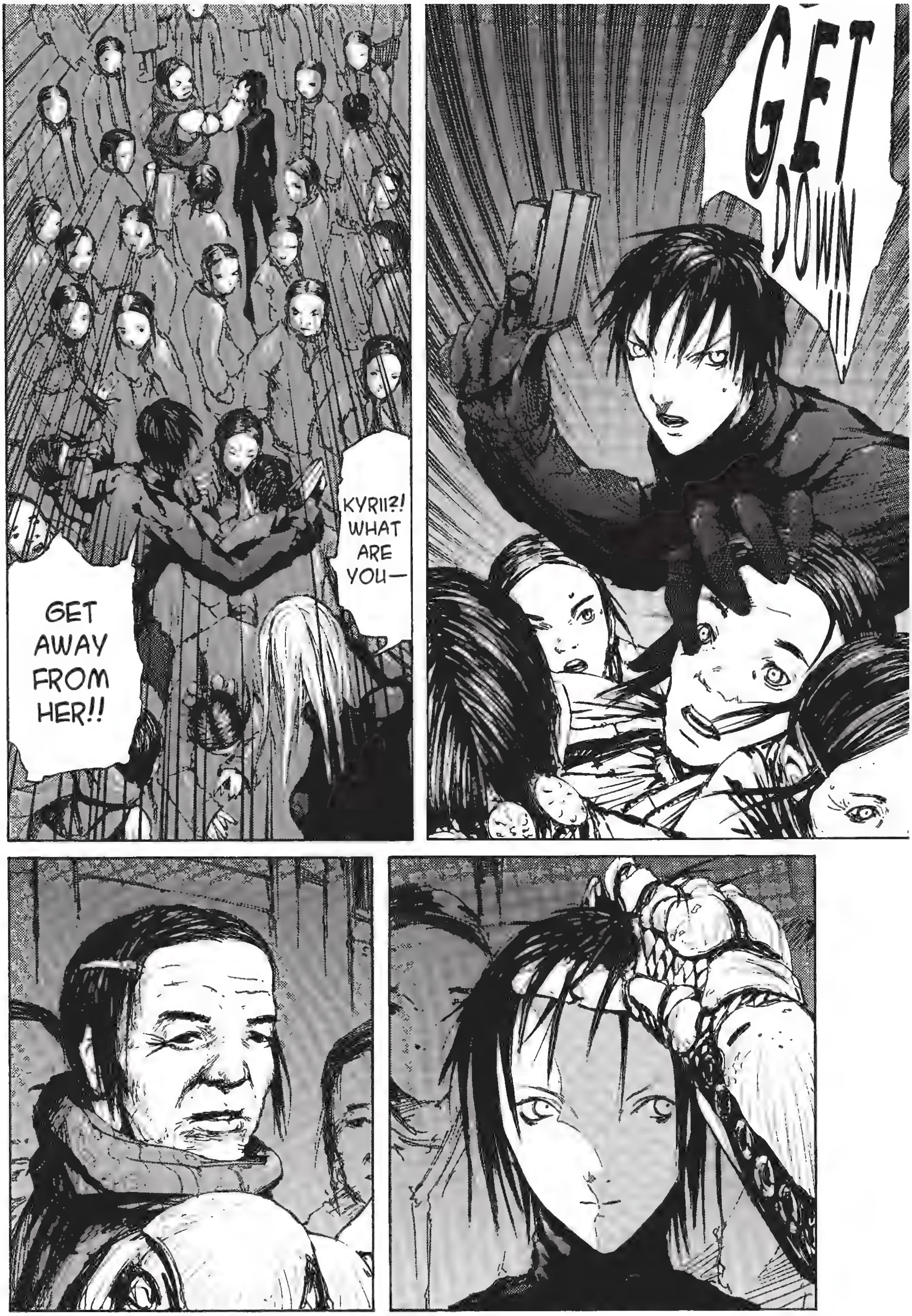

POPS, THIS DOESN'T SMELL GREASY AT ALL.
RIGHT? AND THERE ARE STILL A TON OF 'EM INSIDE.

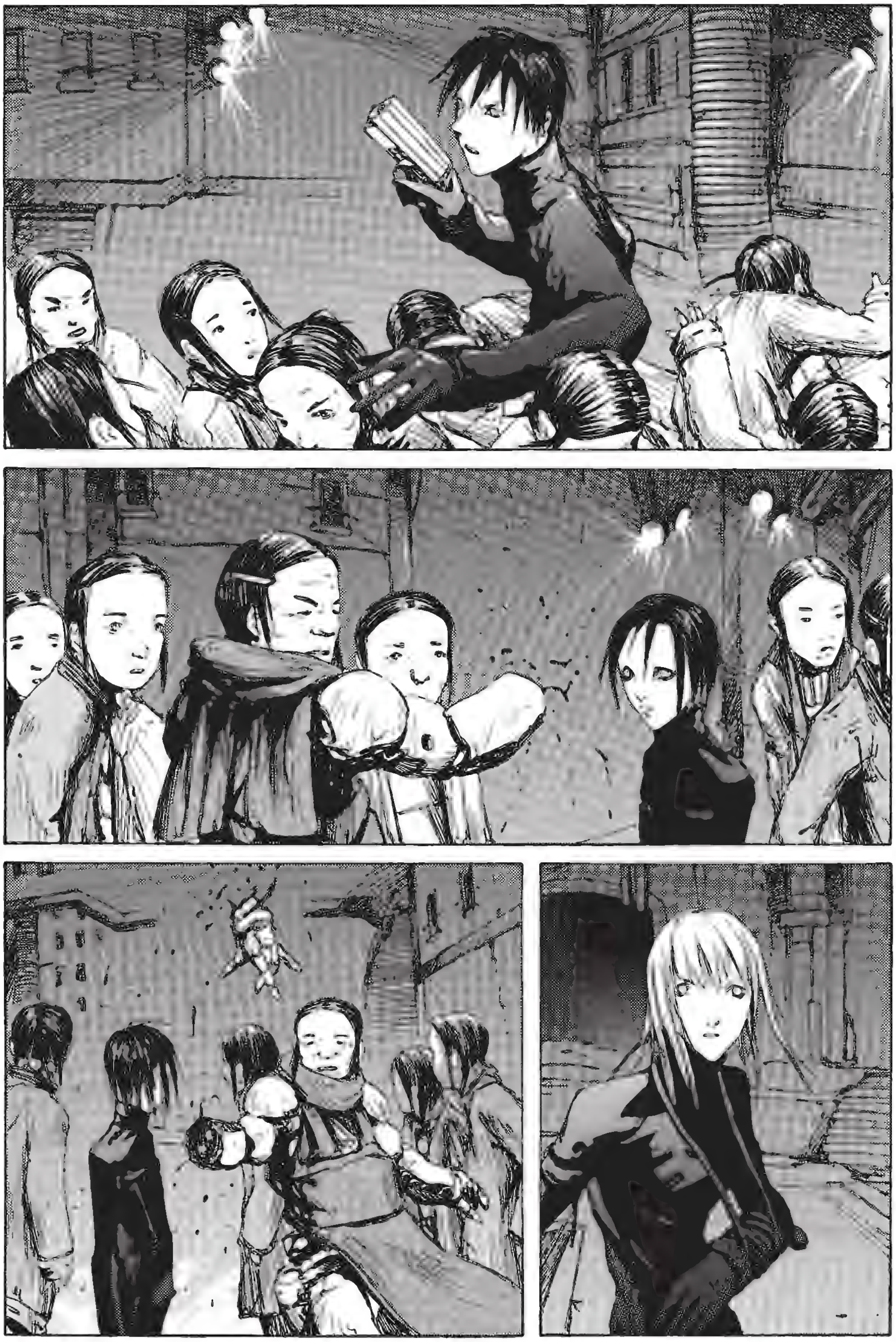

KYRII.
...
WERE THERE ANY HUMANS INSIDE?
YOU'RE UP AND ABOUT ALREADY ...?
WELL, I'LL BE! IF YOU CAN WALK THAT MUCH, YOU'RE JUST FINE.
IT'S ENORMOUS INSIDE.
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE ARE PEOPLE IN IT.

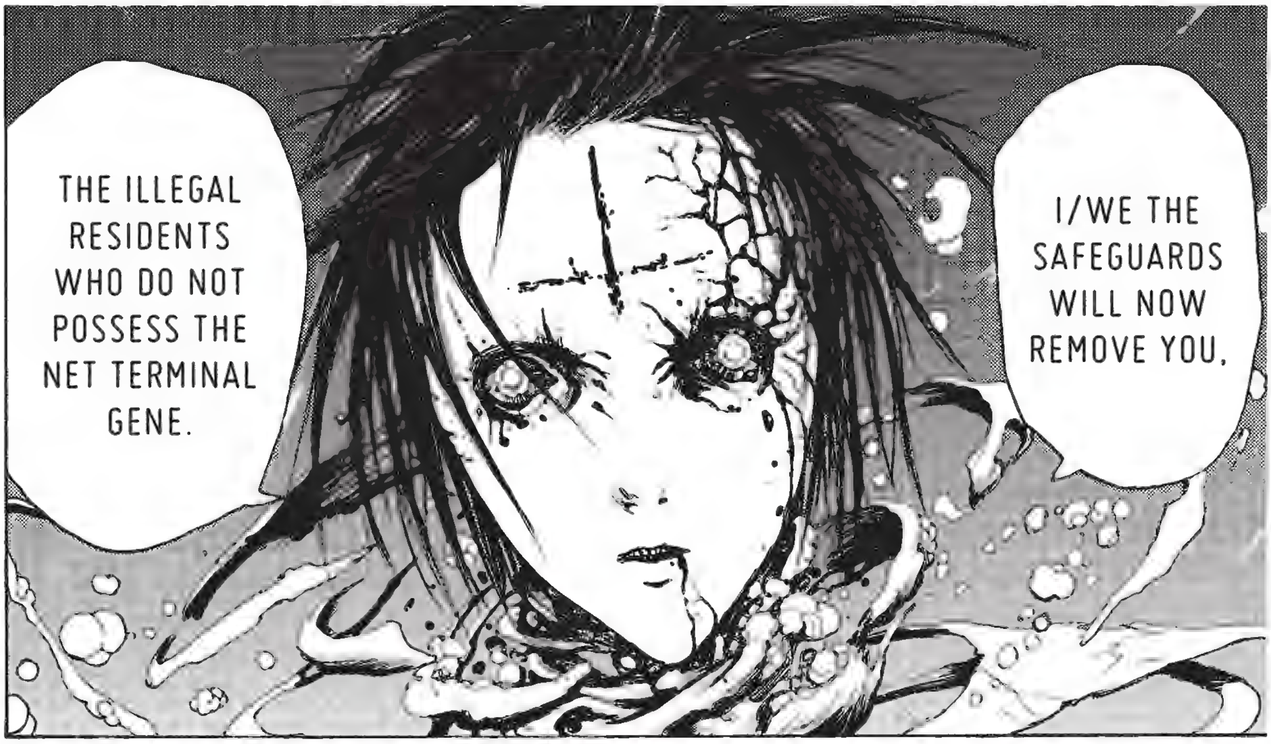

TOMORROW WE'LL GO BACK IN WITH A BIGGER PARTY.
YOU SHOULD STAY AND GET SOME MORE REST.

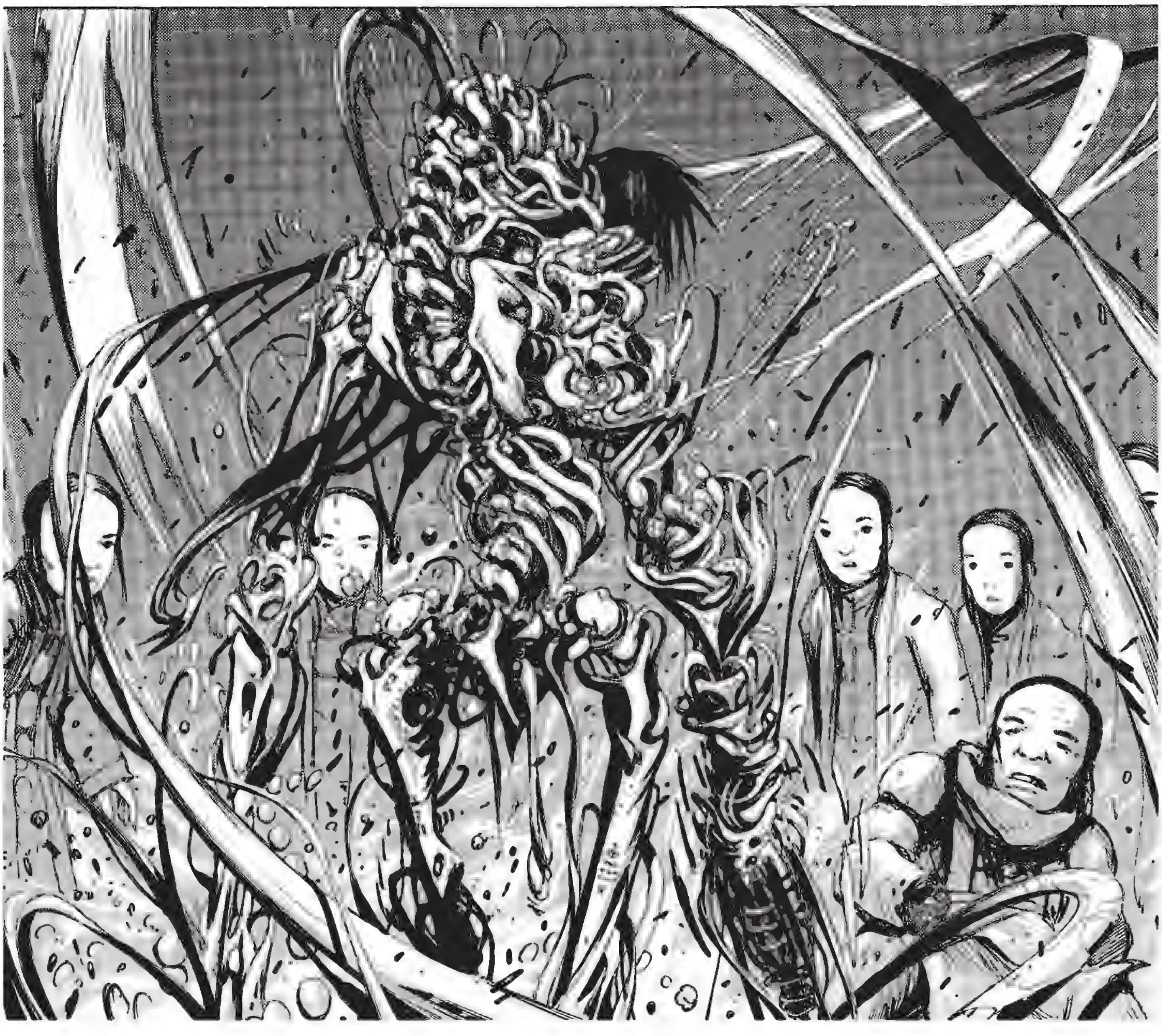

DENIED
DENIED
DENIED
DENIED
DENIED
DENIED
...?!
ANYWAY, THIS IS LUCKY.
AS SOON AS WE FIND A GOOD SPOT, WE CAN MOVE IN THERE.
?!

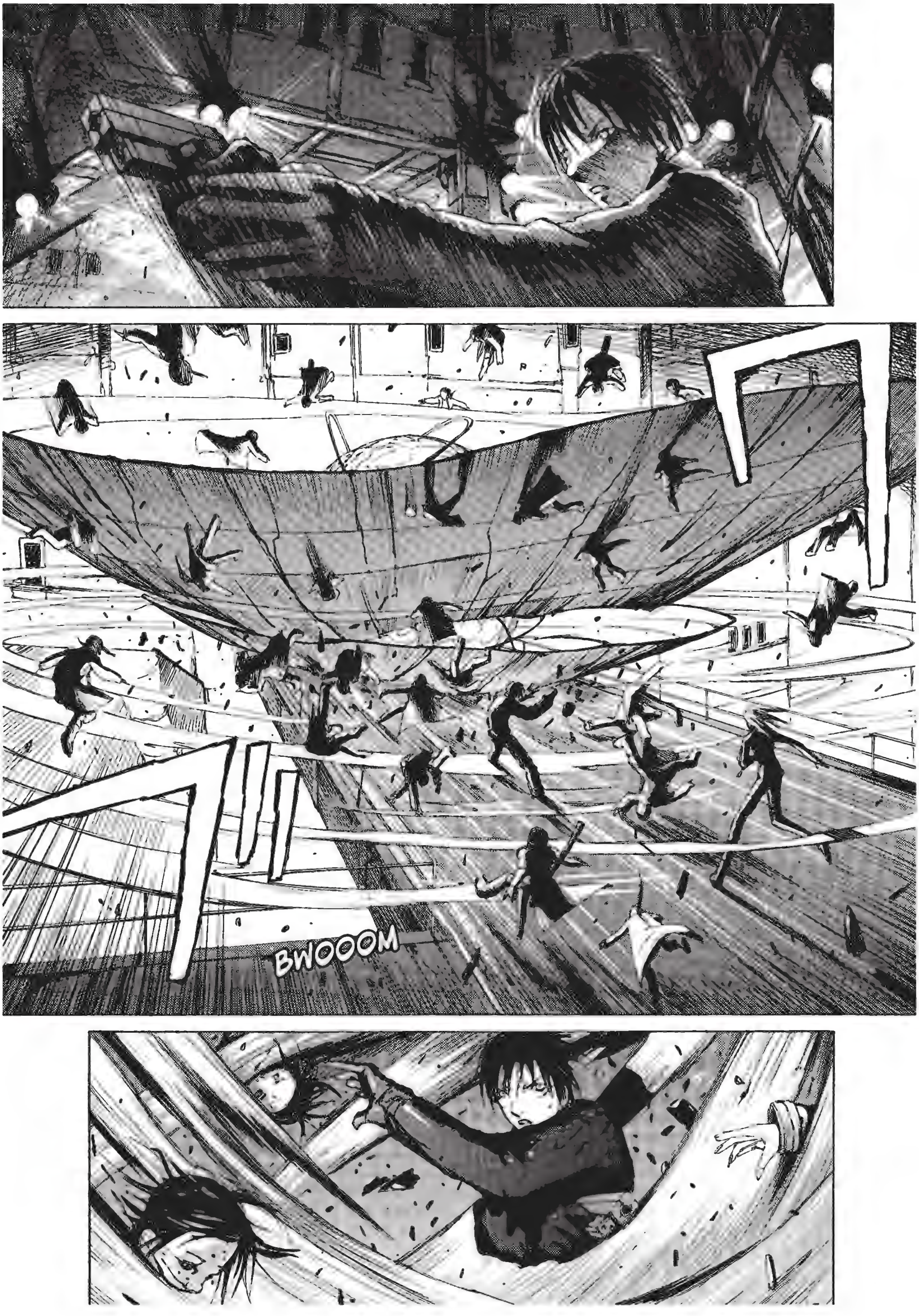

IF WE CAN GET INTO TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEM SAFEGUARDS NO MORE.
SAFEGUARD
ALL THANKS TO YOU!
WE OWE YOU ONE, KID!
RUFFLE
グシャ
RUFFLE
グシャ

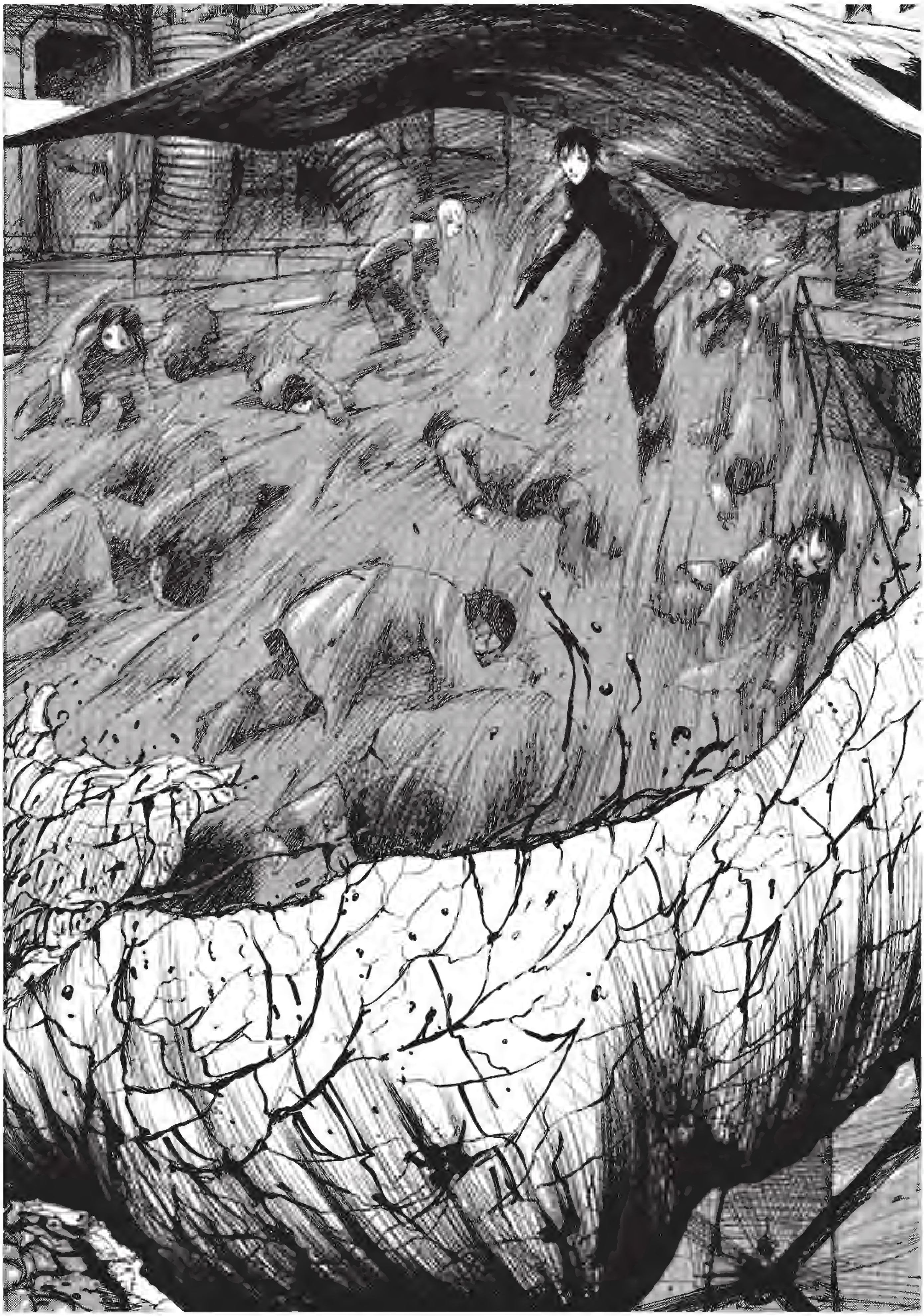

GET DOWN!!!
KYRII?! WHAT ARE YOU—
GET AWAY FROM HER!!

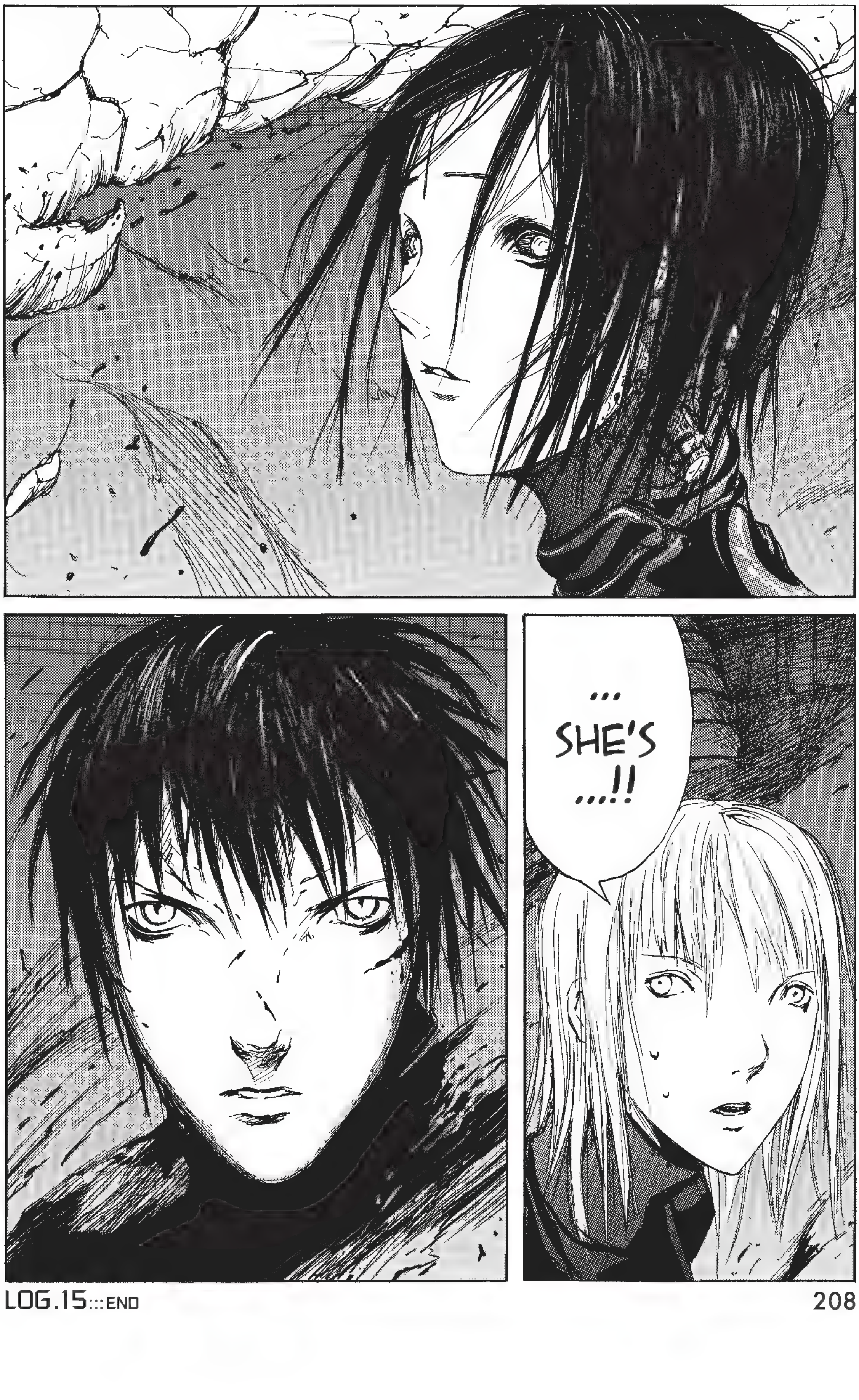



I/WE THE SAFEGUARDS WILL NOW REMOVE YOU,
THE ILLEGAL RESIDENTS WHO DO NOT POSSESS THE NET TERMINAL GENE.

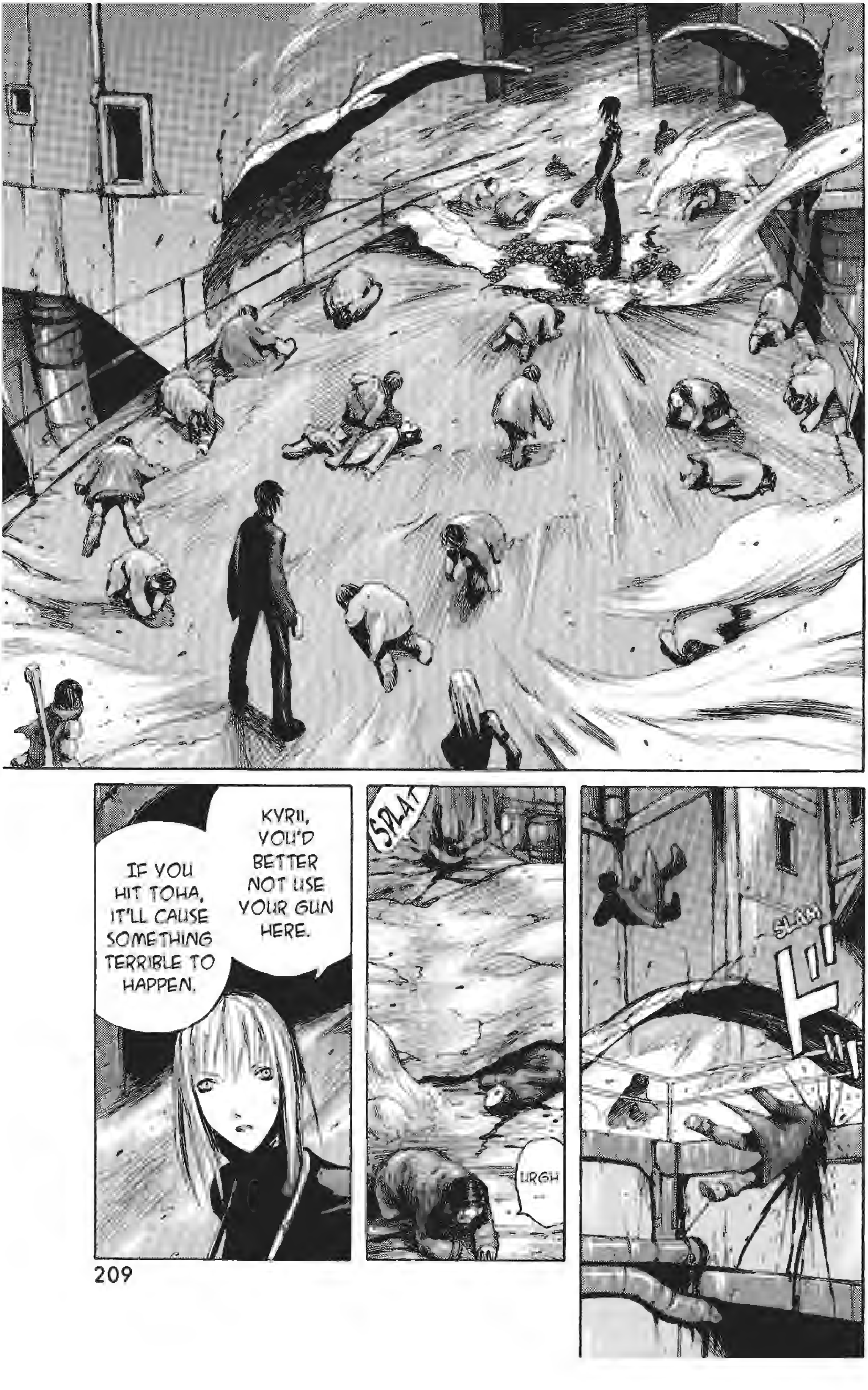


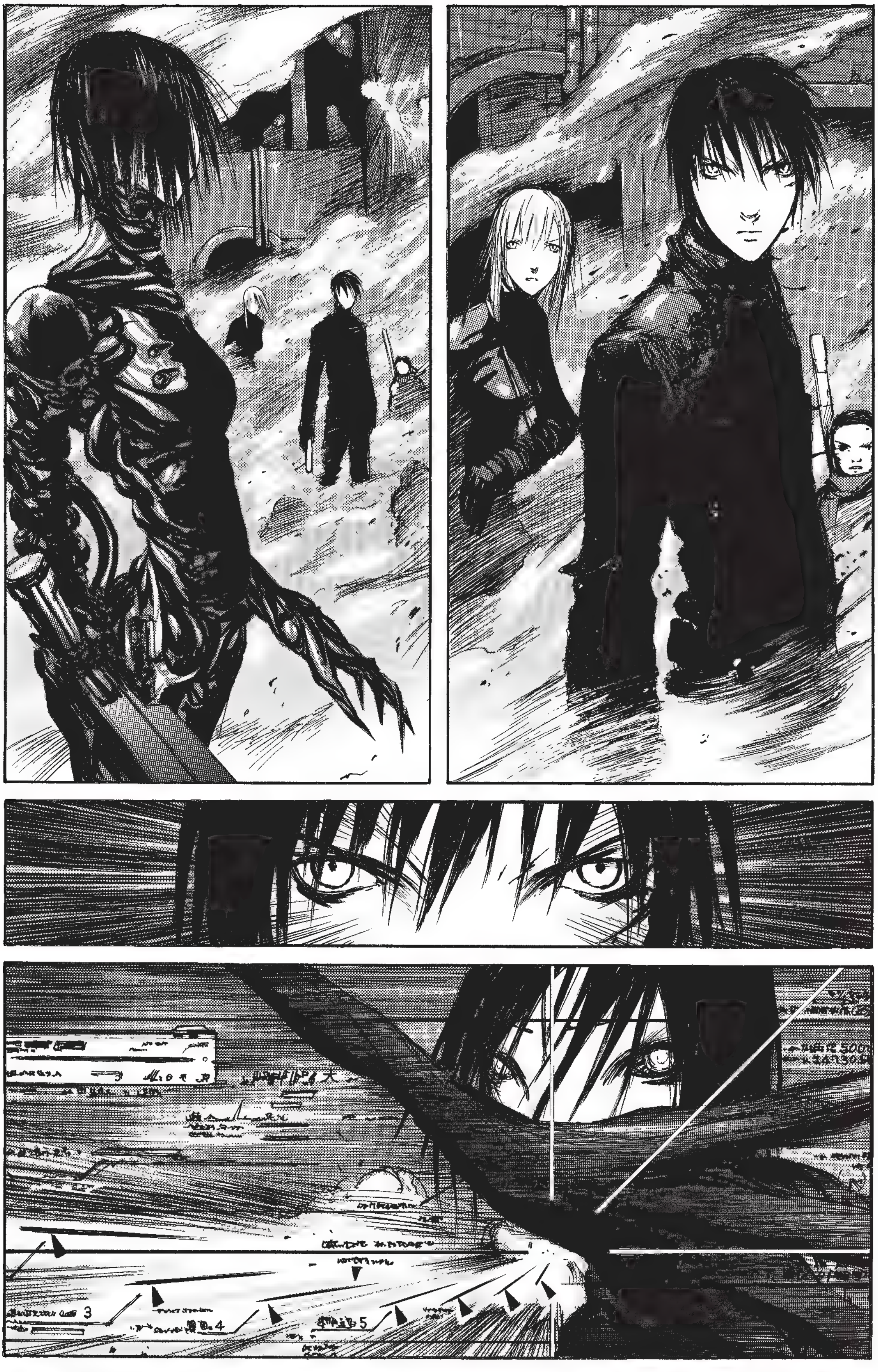

BWOOOM

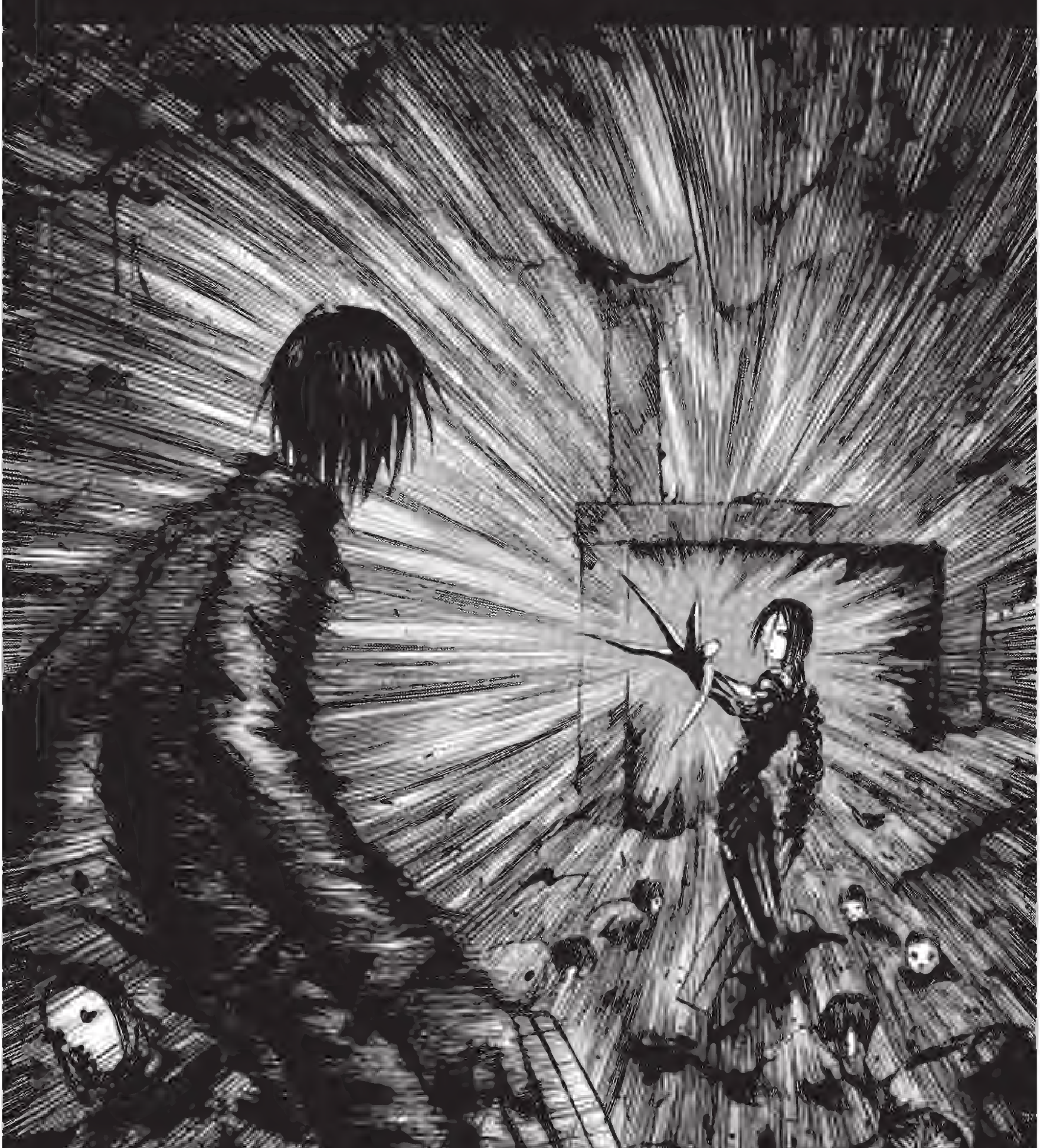




LOG.15:::END

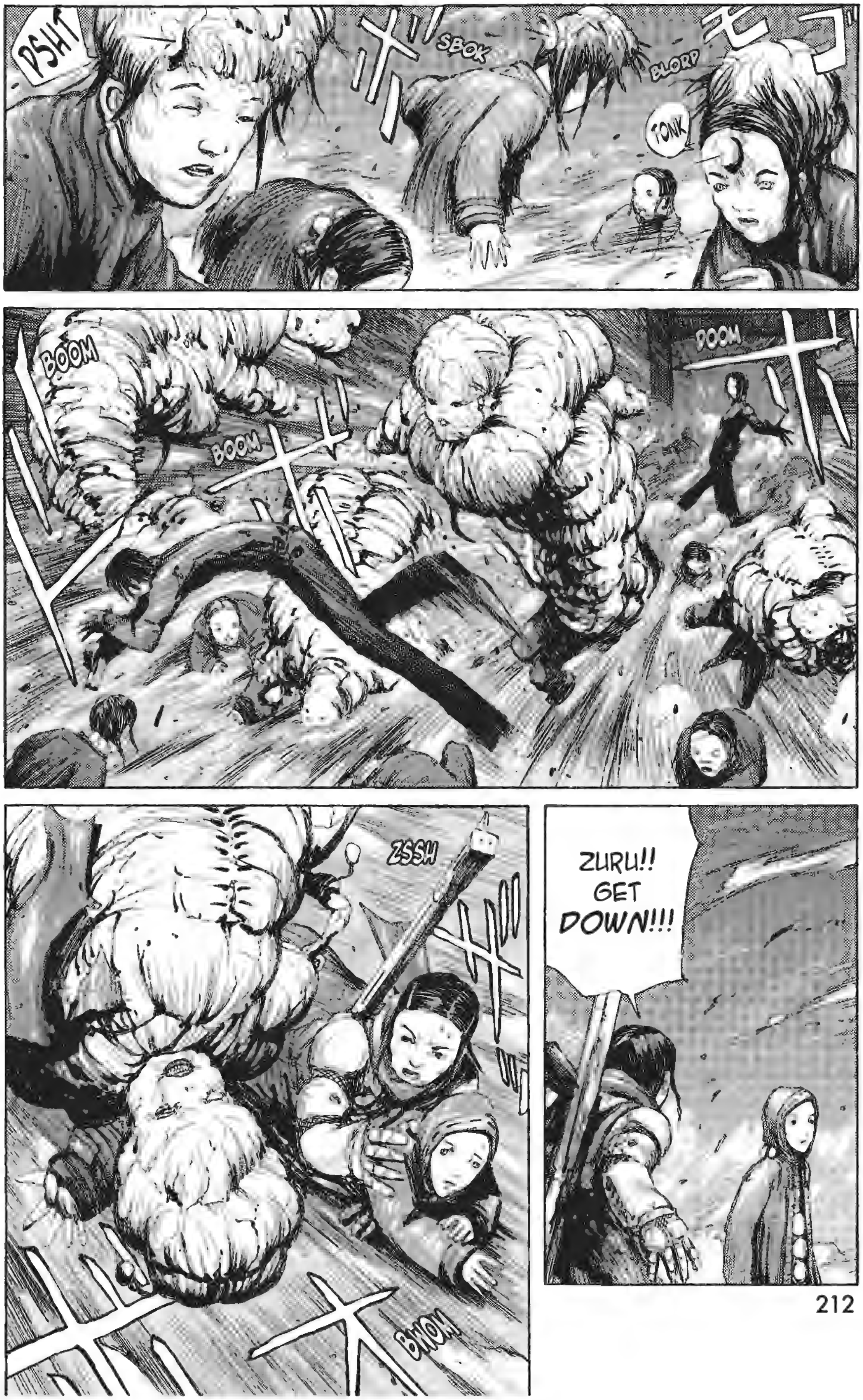

SLAM
ドッ
SPLAT
URGH —
KYRII, YOU'D BETTER NOT USE YOUR GUN HERE.
IF YOU HIT TOHA, IT'LL CAUSE SOMETHING TERRIBLE TO HAPPEN.

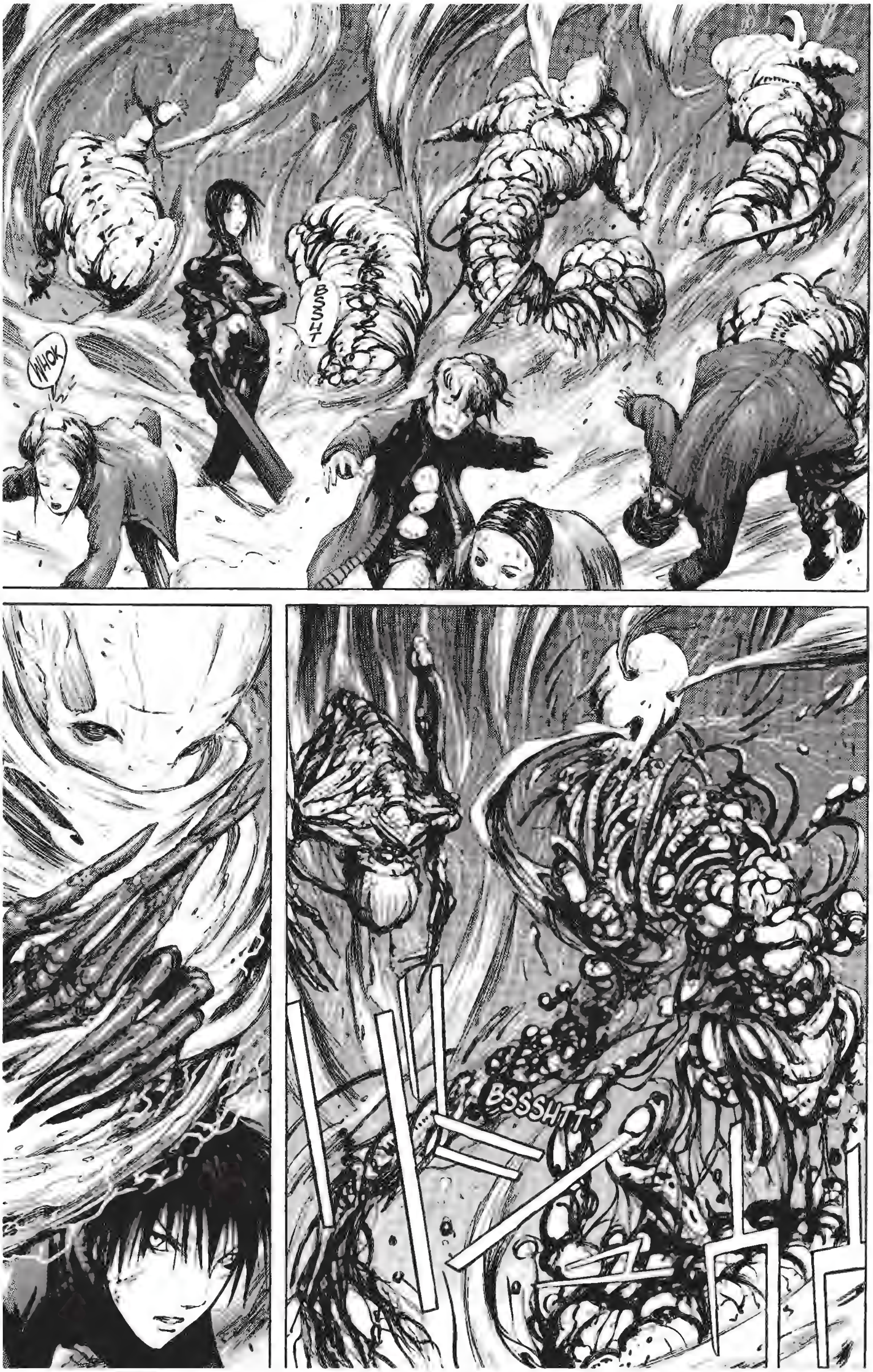

3
4
5

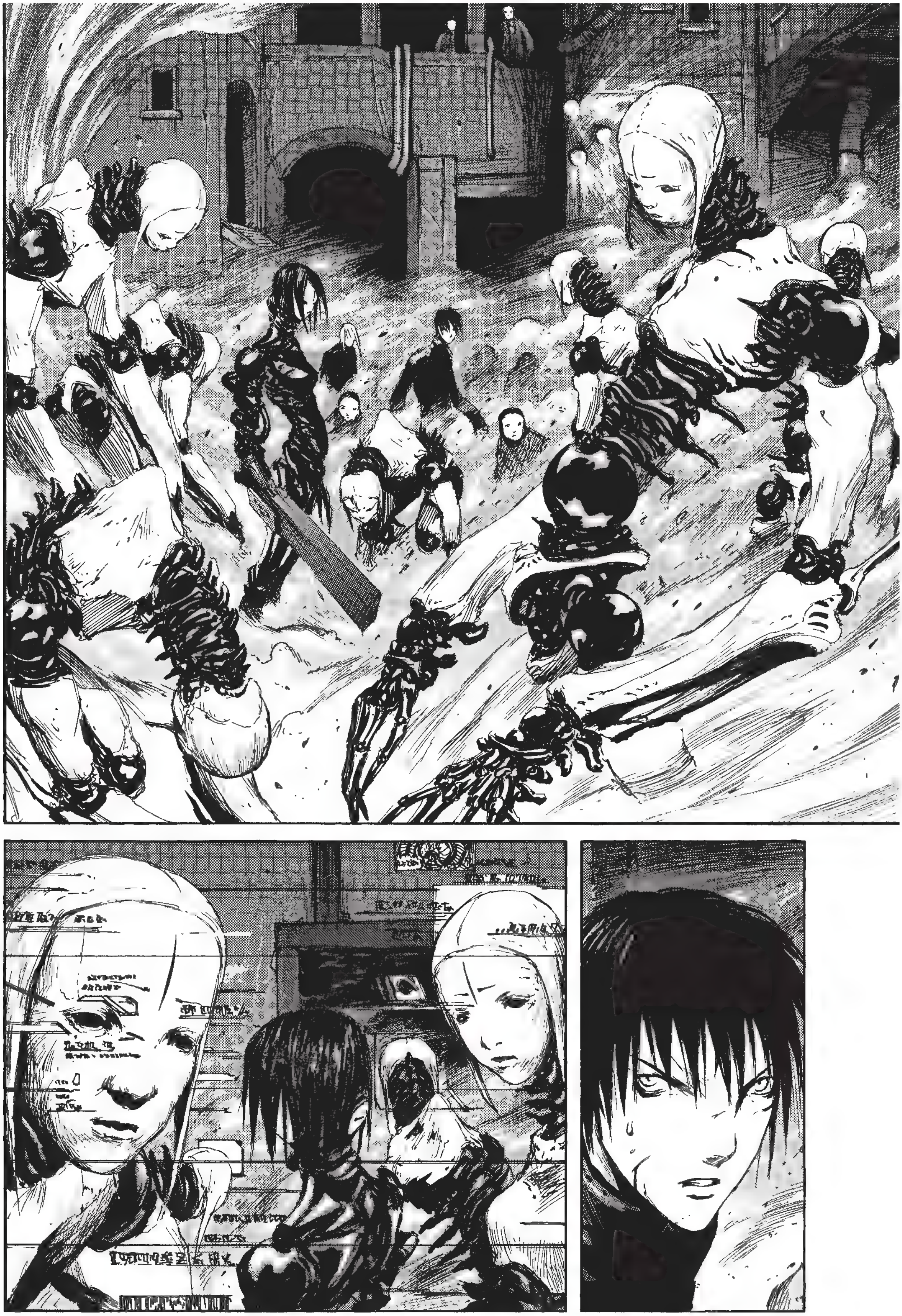


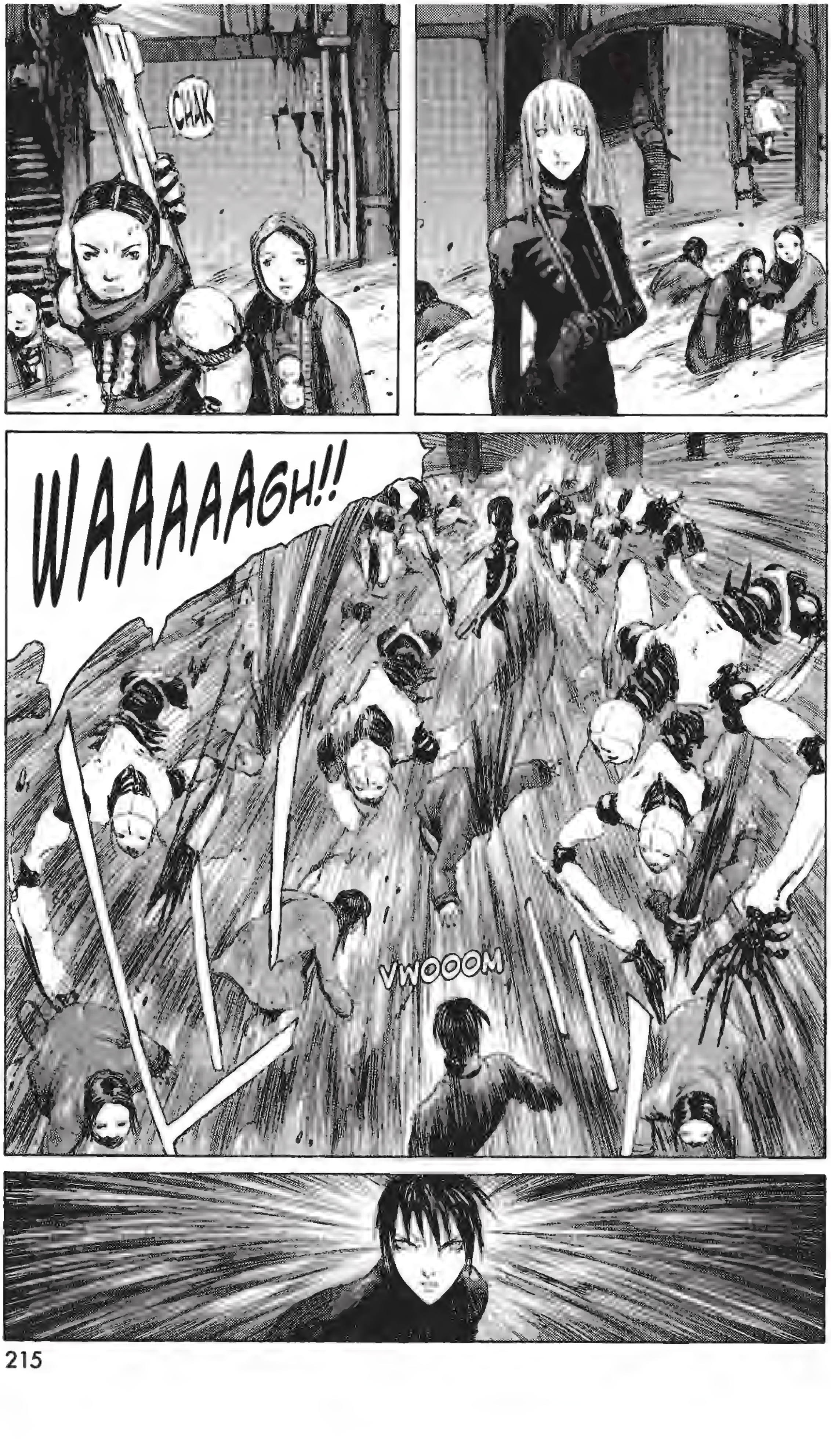
::LOG.16::

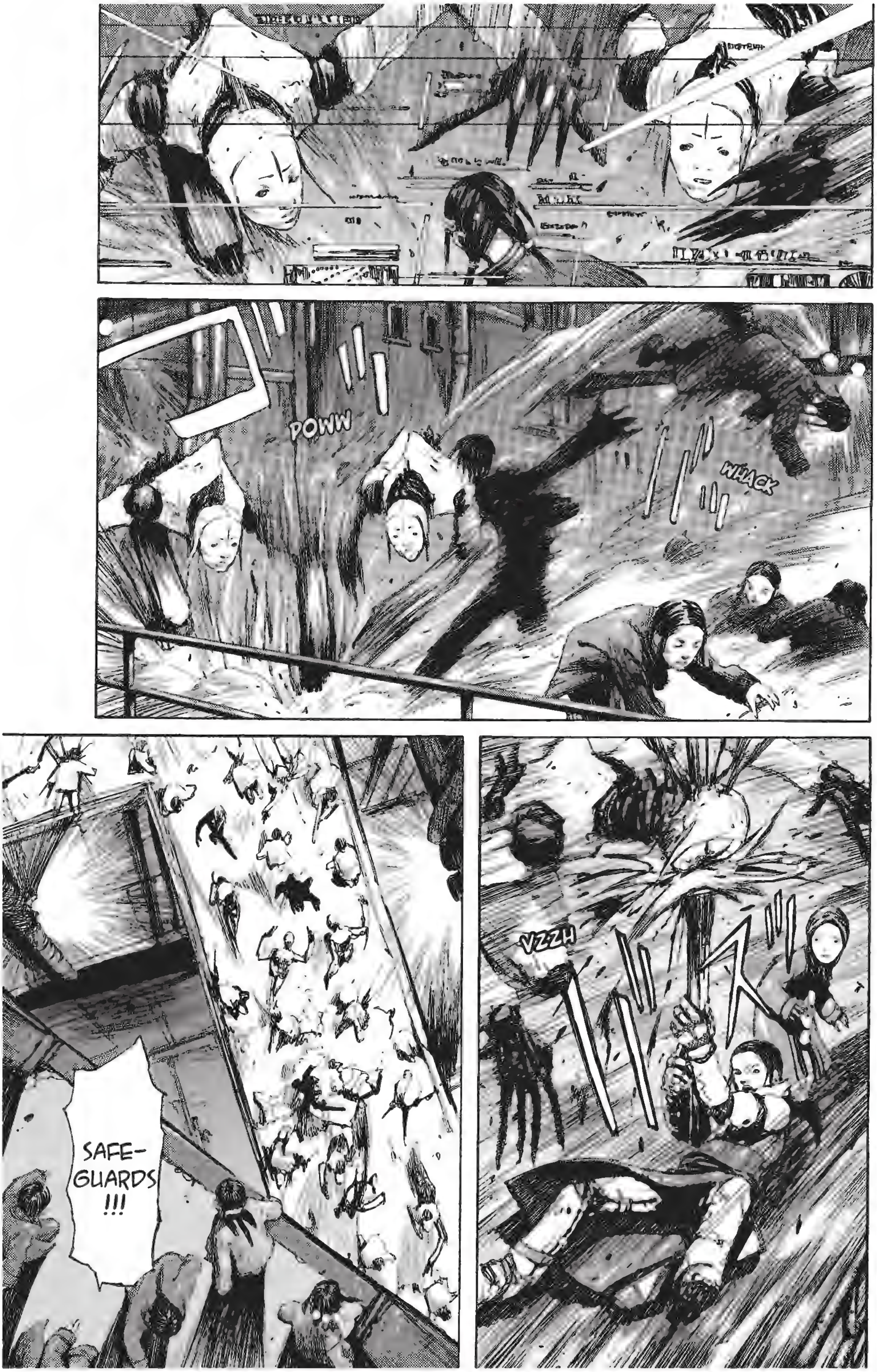
THE ATTACK

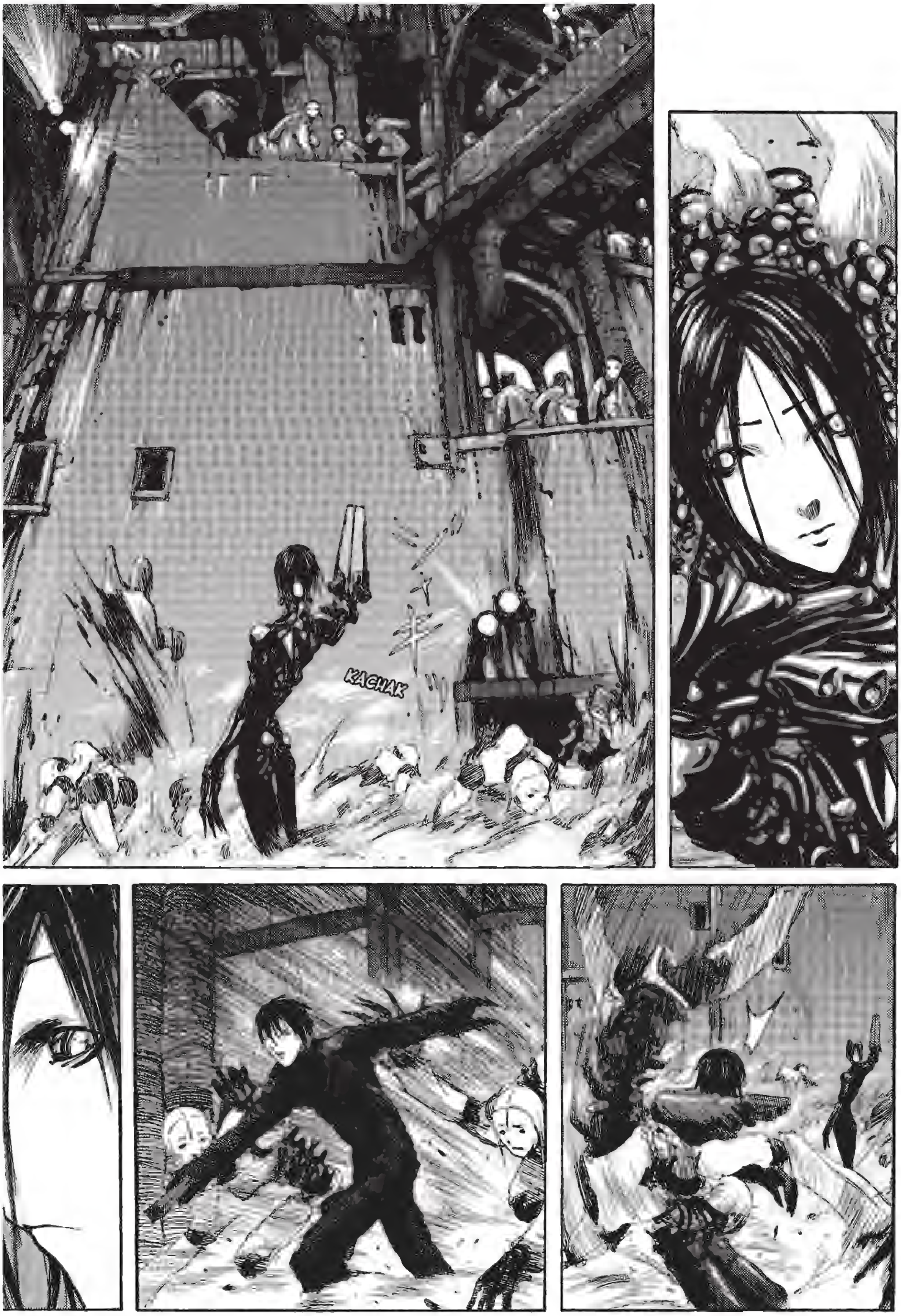

モゴ
BLORP
TONK
SBOK
PSHT
DOOM
BOOM
BOOM
ZURU!! GET DOWN!!!
ZSSH
BWOM

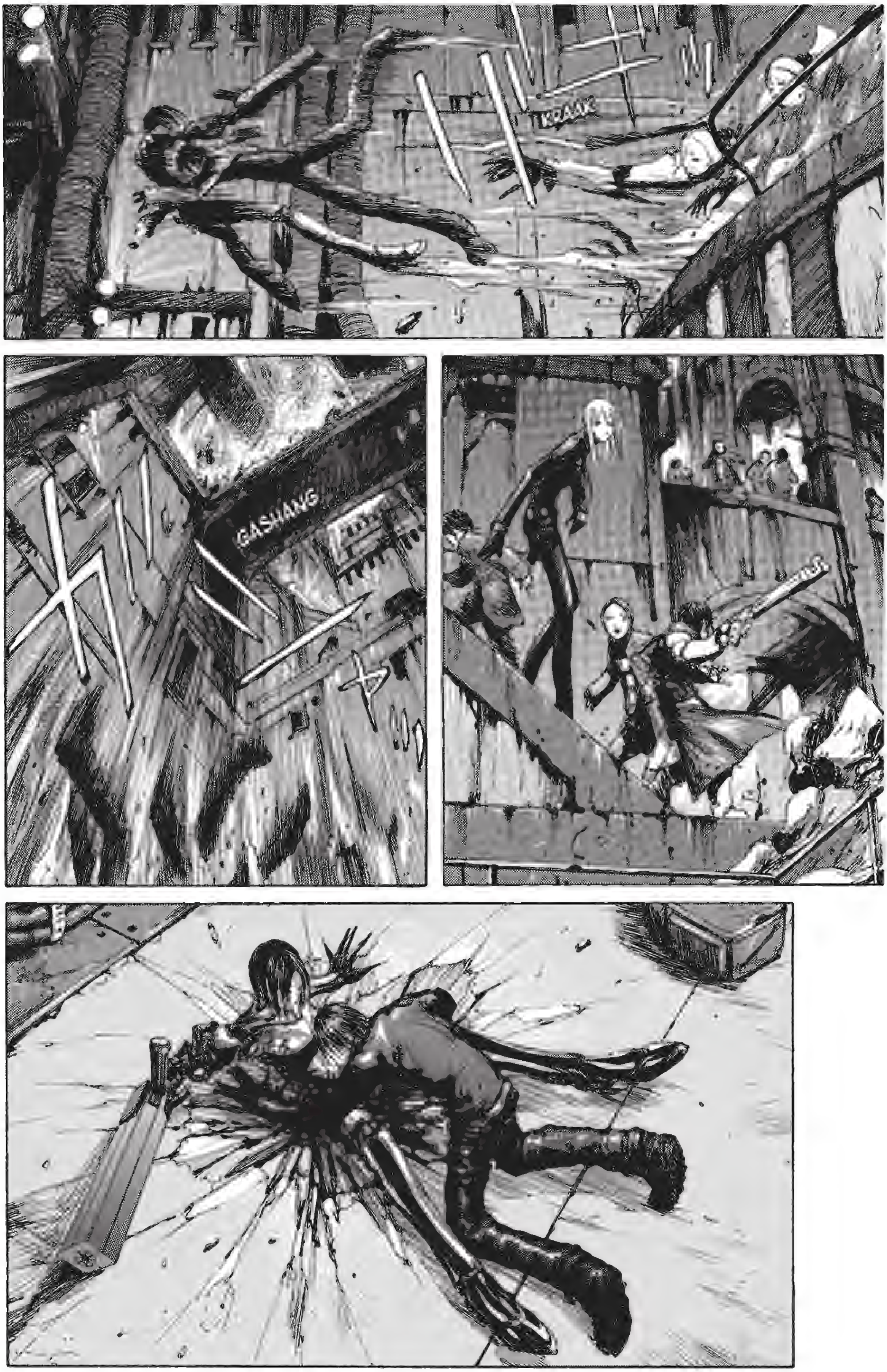

BSSHT
WHOK
BSSSHTT

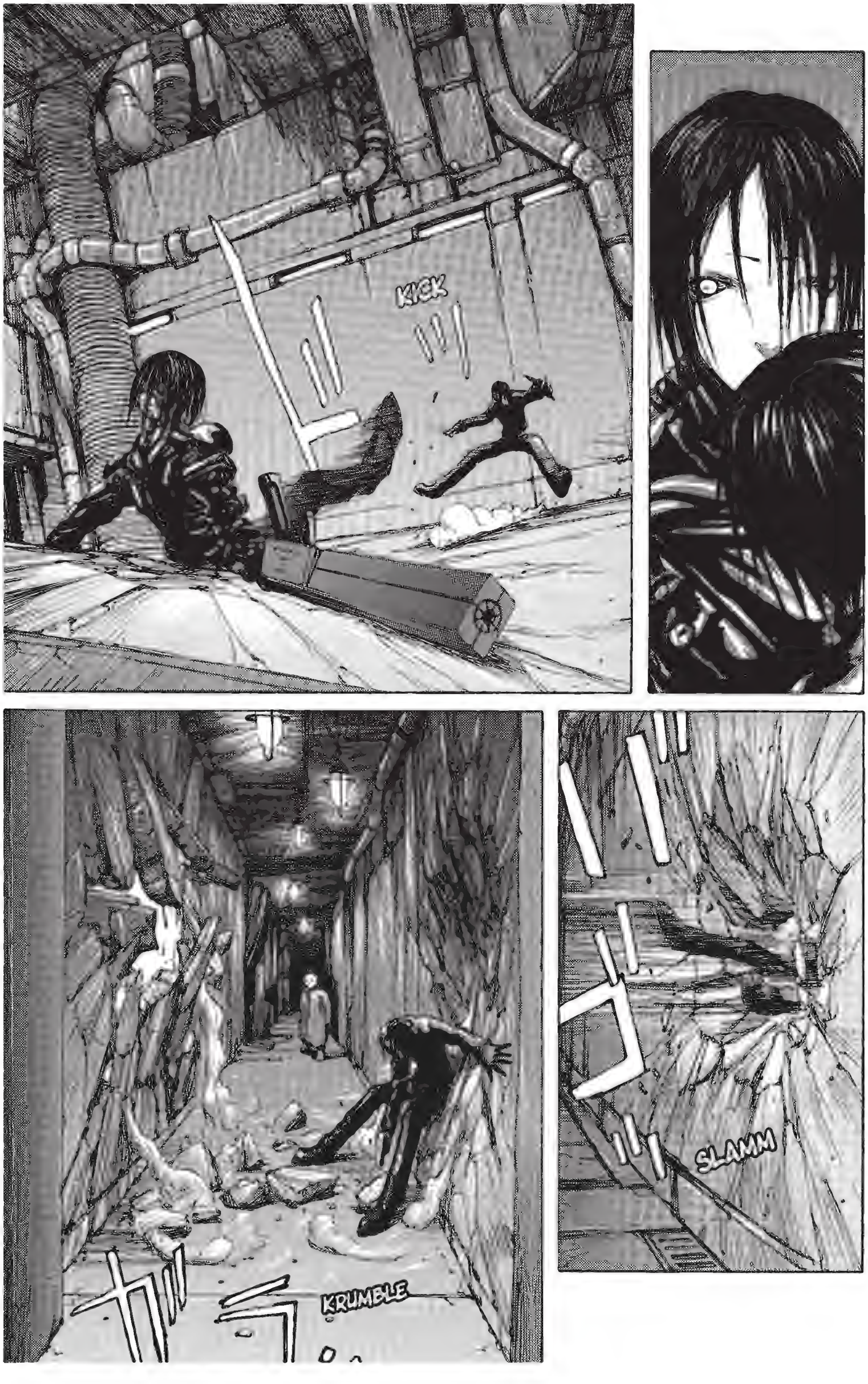


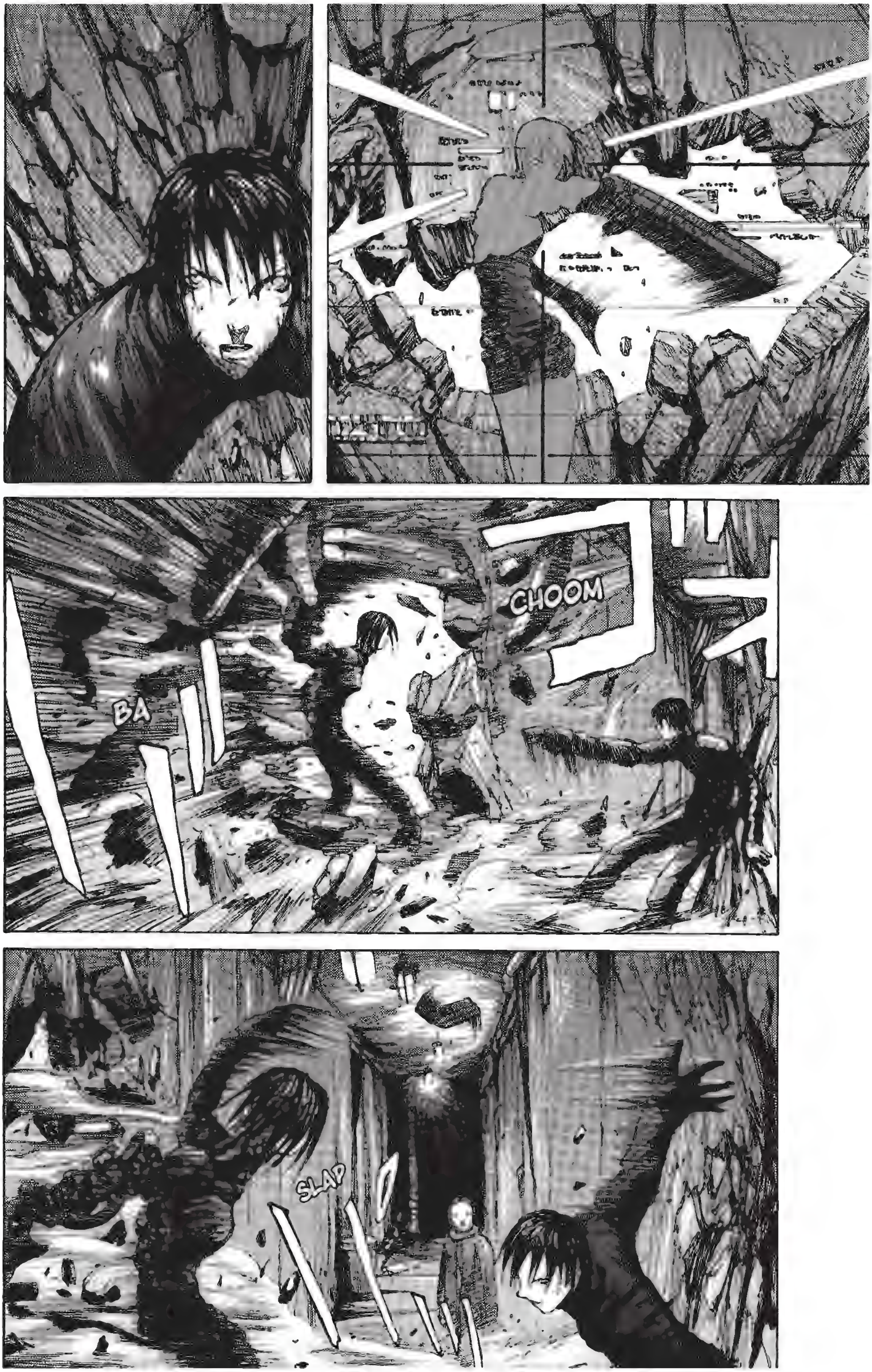

CHAK
WAAAAAGH!!
VWOOOM

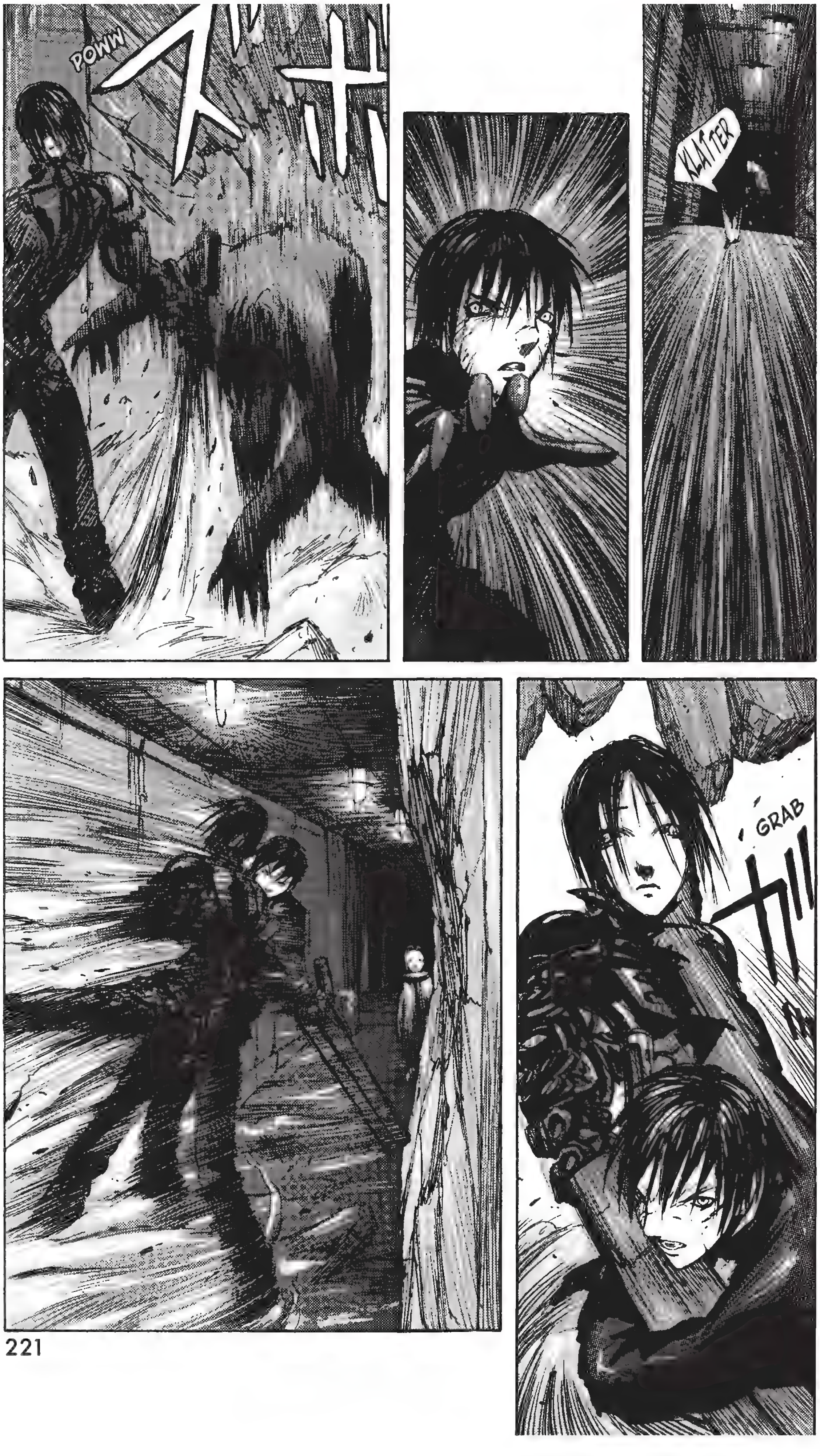

WHACK
POWW
VZZH
SAFE-GUARDS!!!

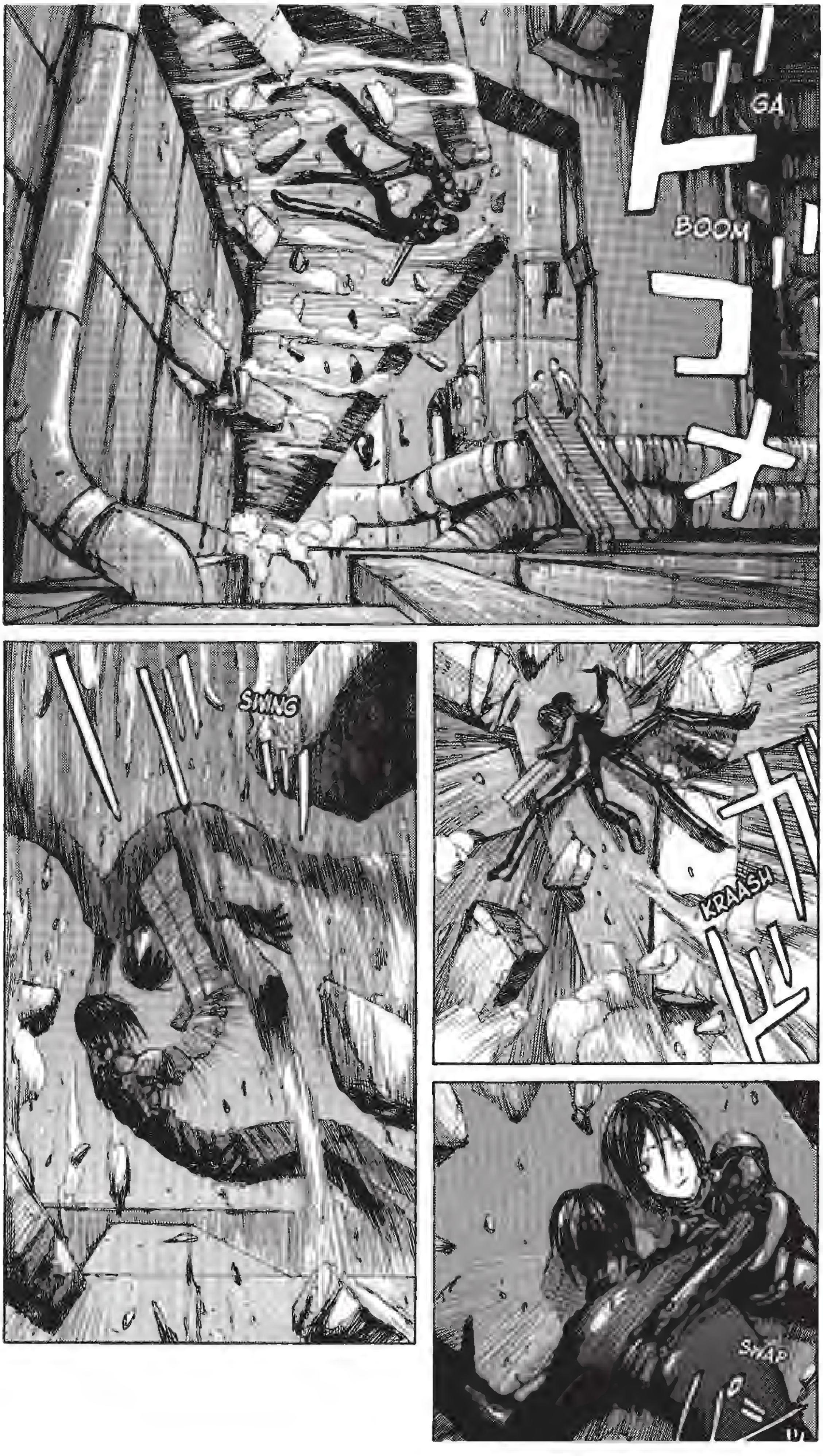

KACHAK

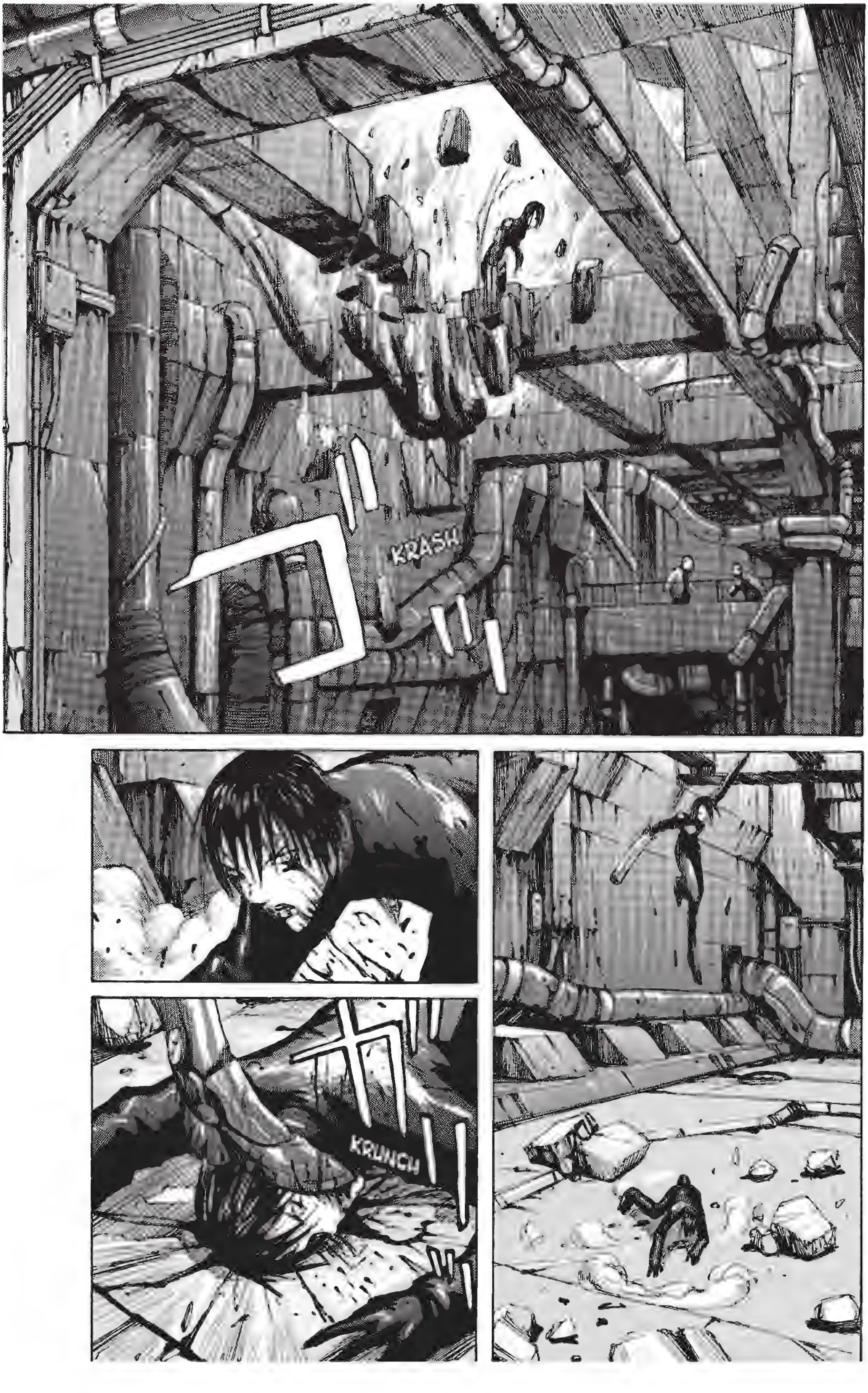

KRAAK
GASHANG

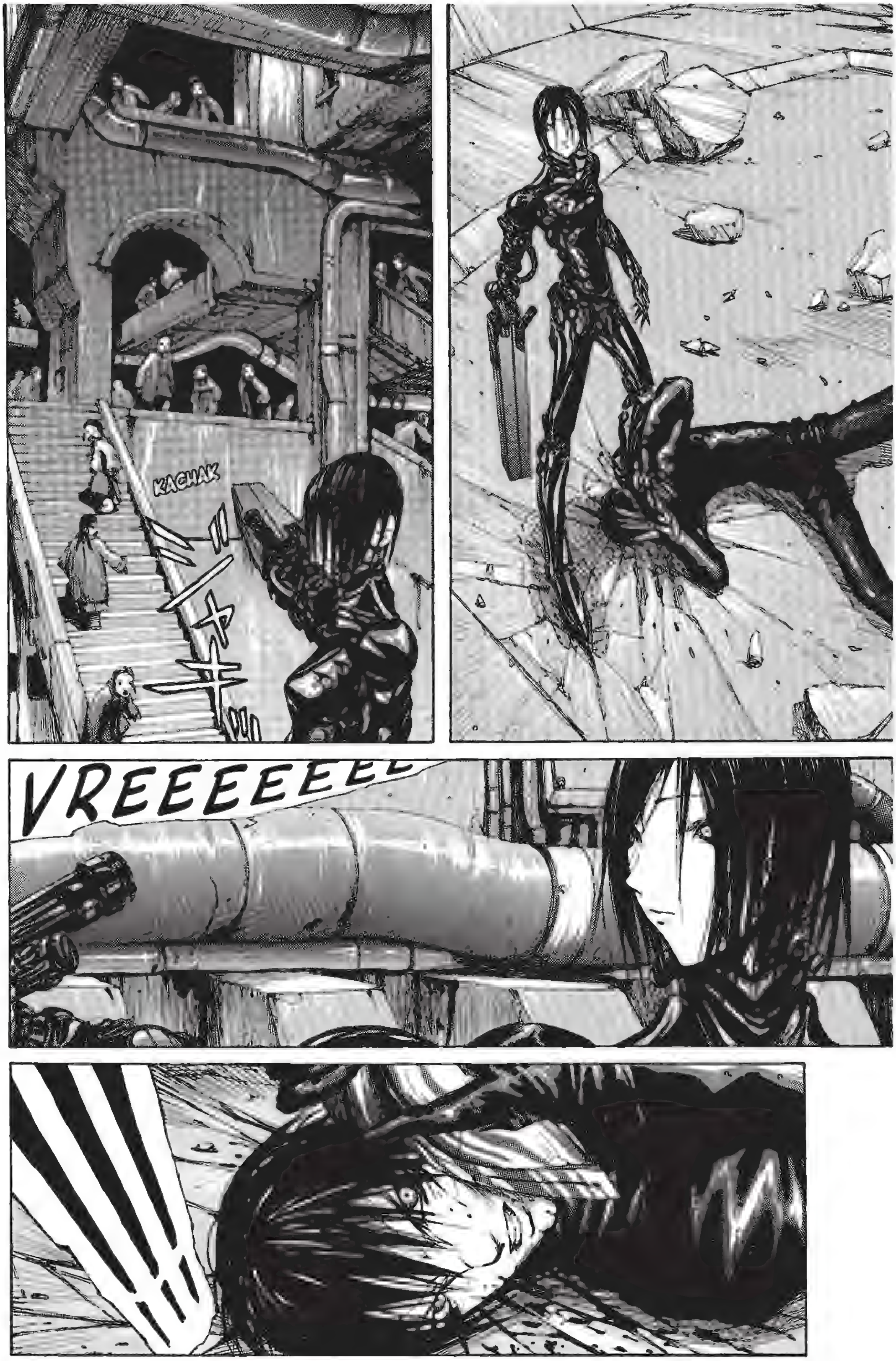

KICK
SLAMM
KRUMBLE

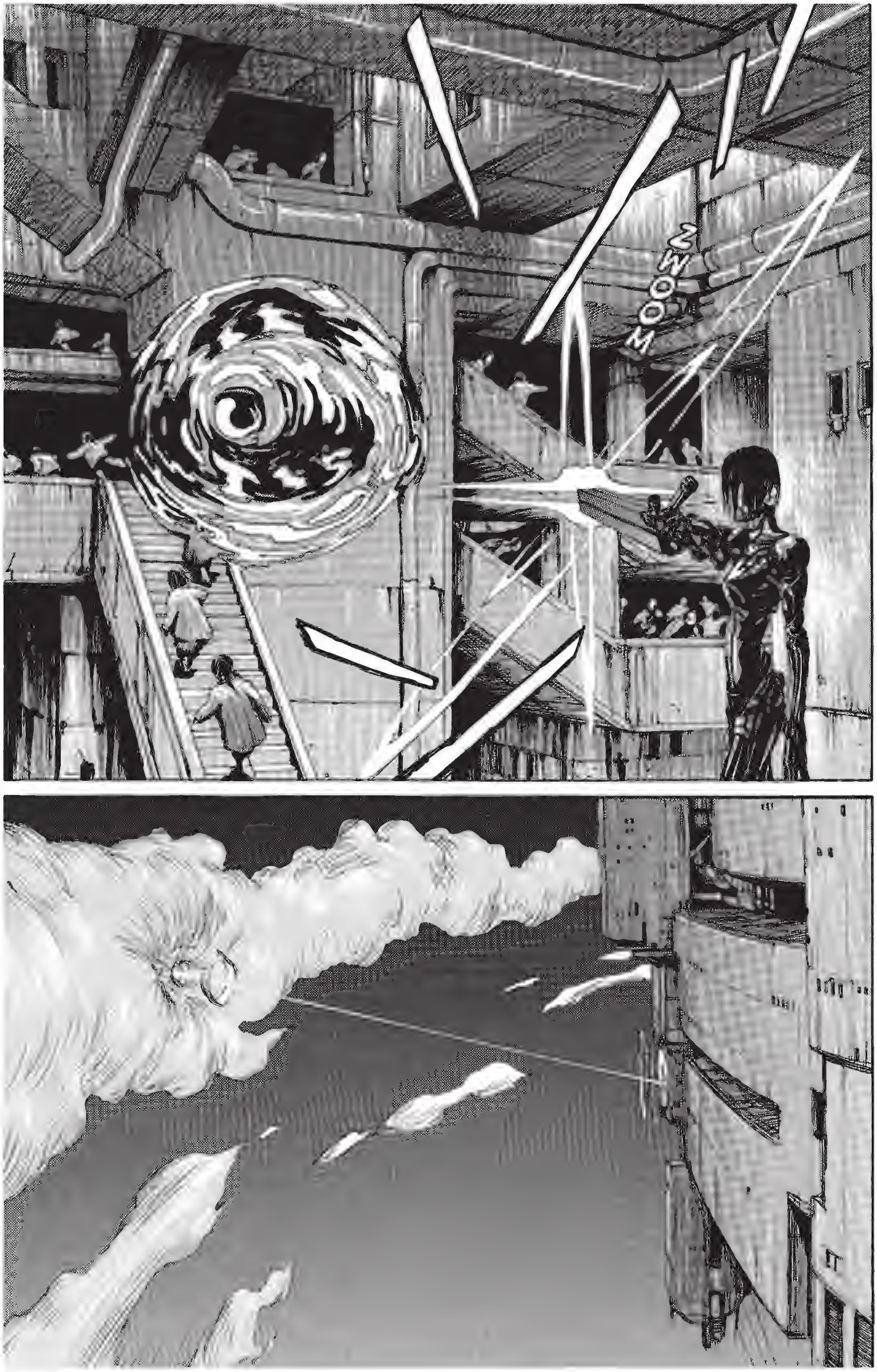

CHOOM
BA
SLAP

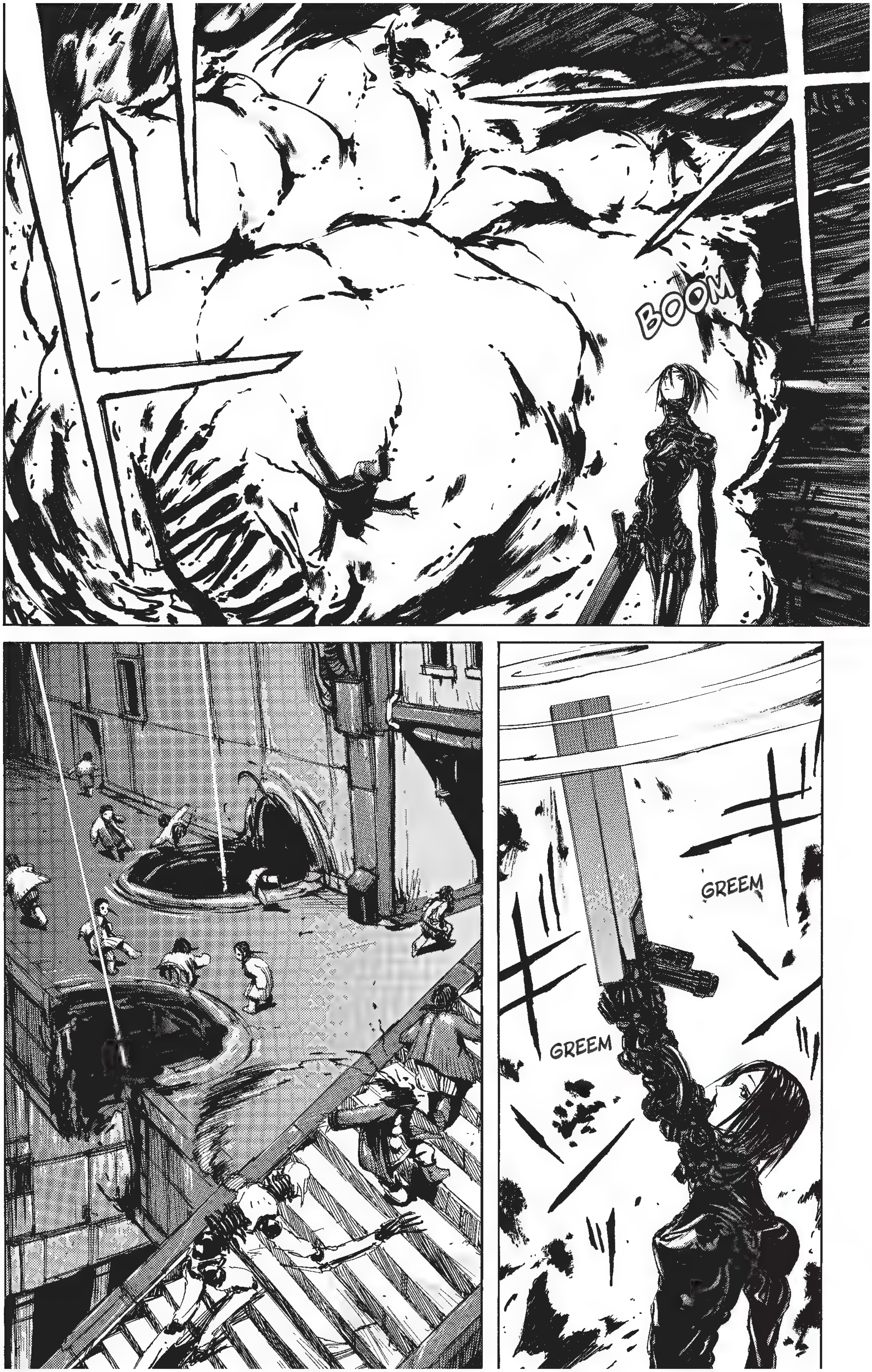

KLATTER
POWW
ズガ
GRAB
ガッ

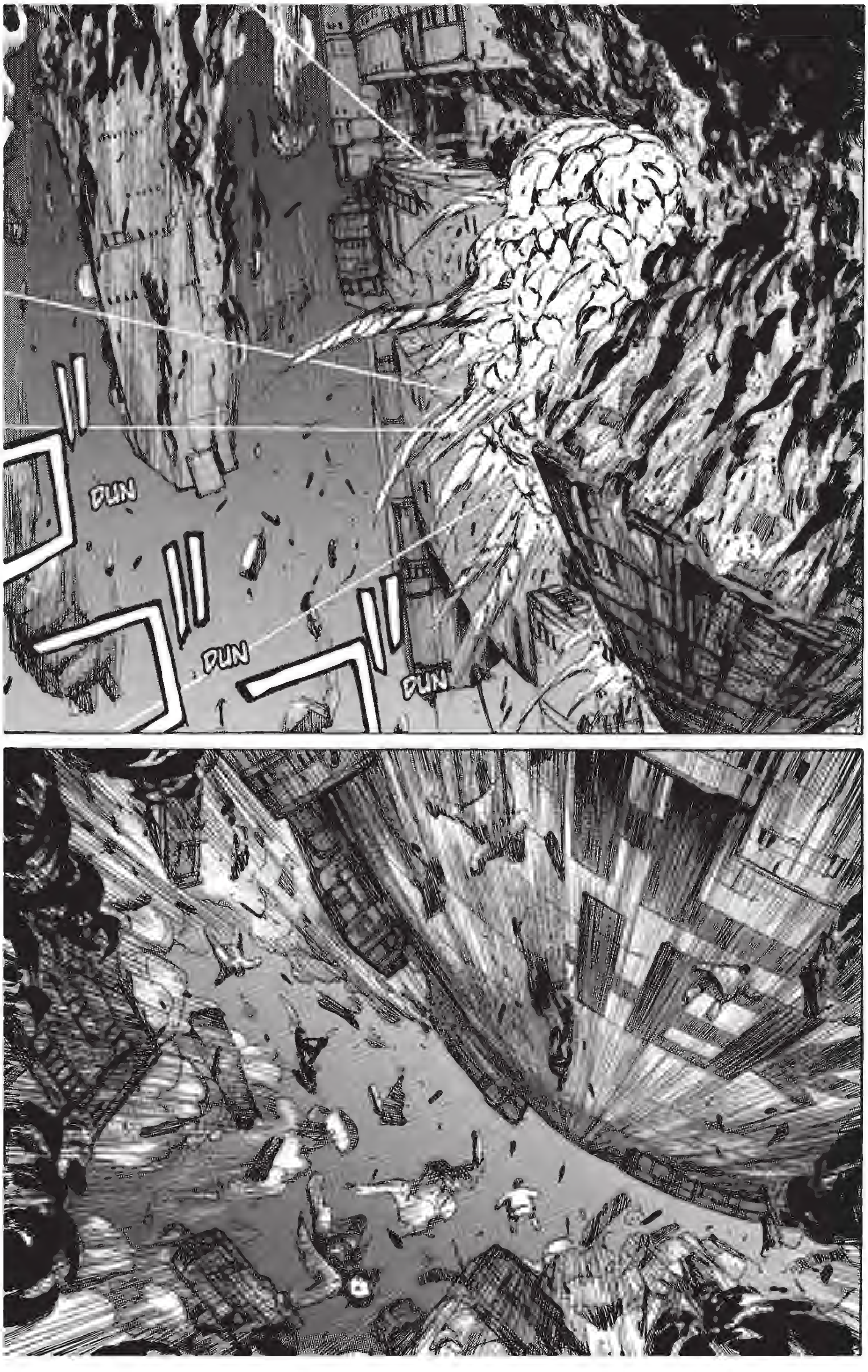

GA
BOOM
SWING
KRAASH
SNAP

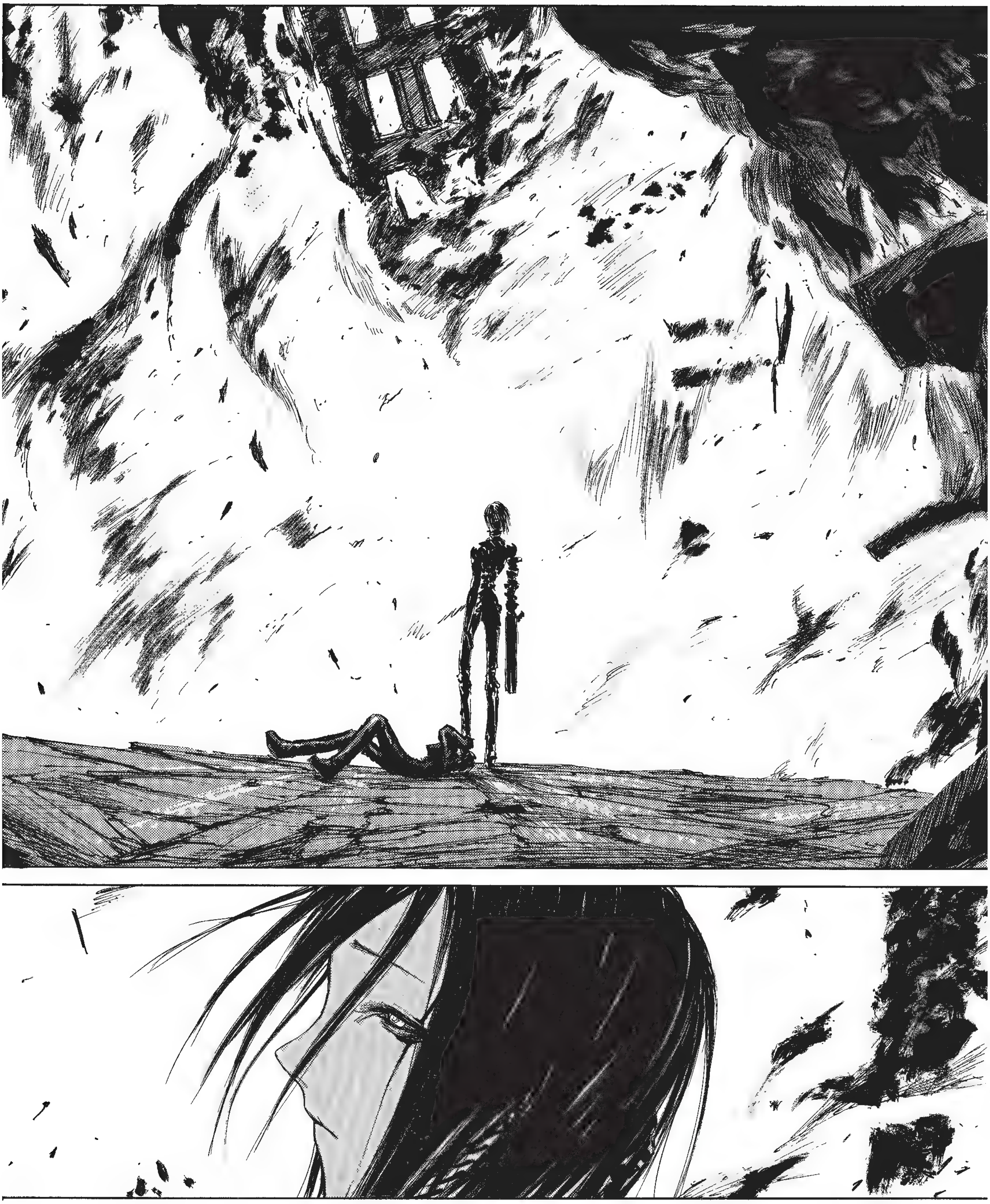

ゴ
KRASH
ガ
KRUNCH

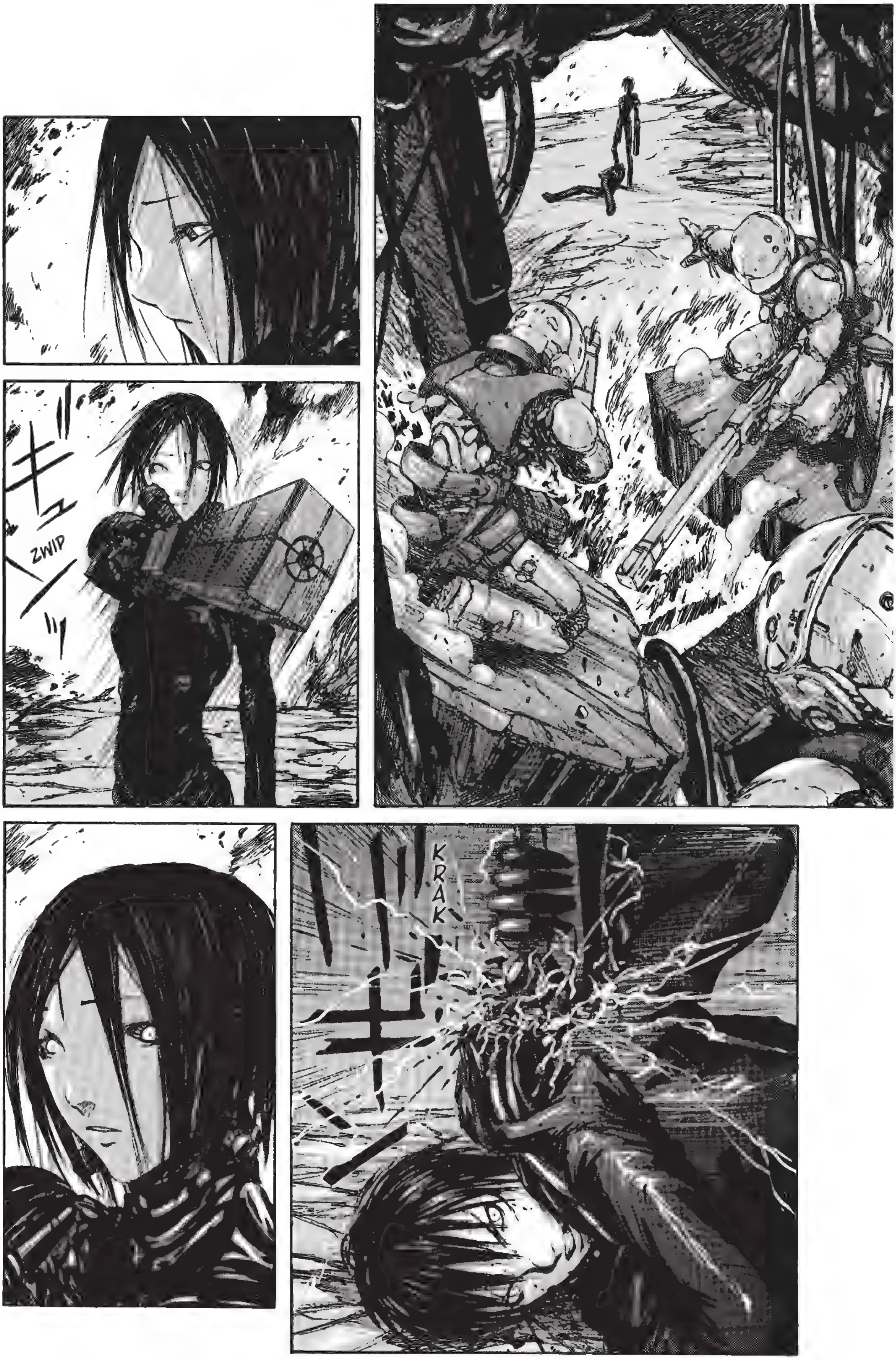

KACHAK
VREEEEEEE

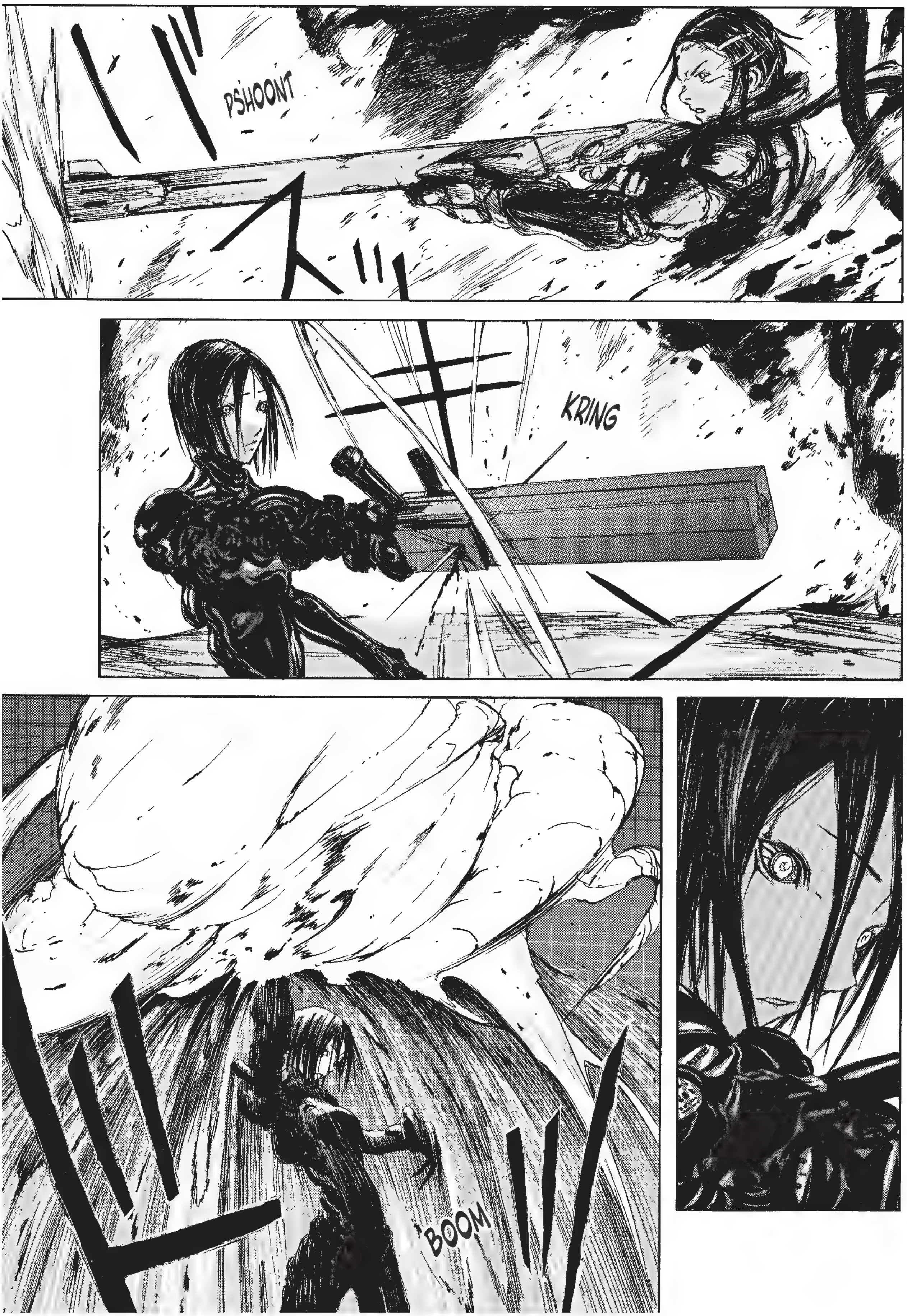

ZWOOM

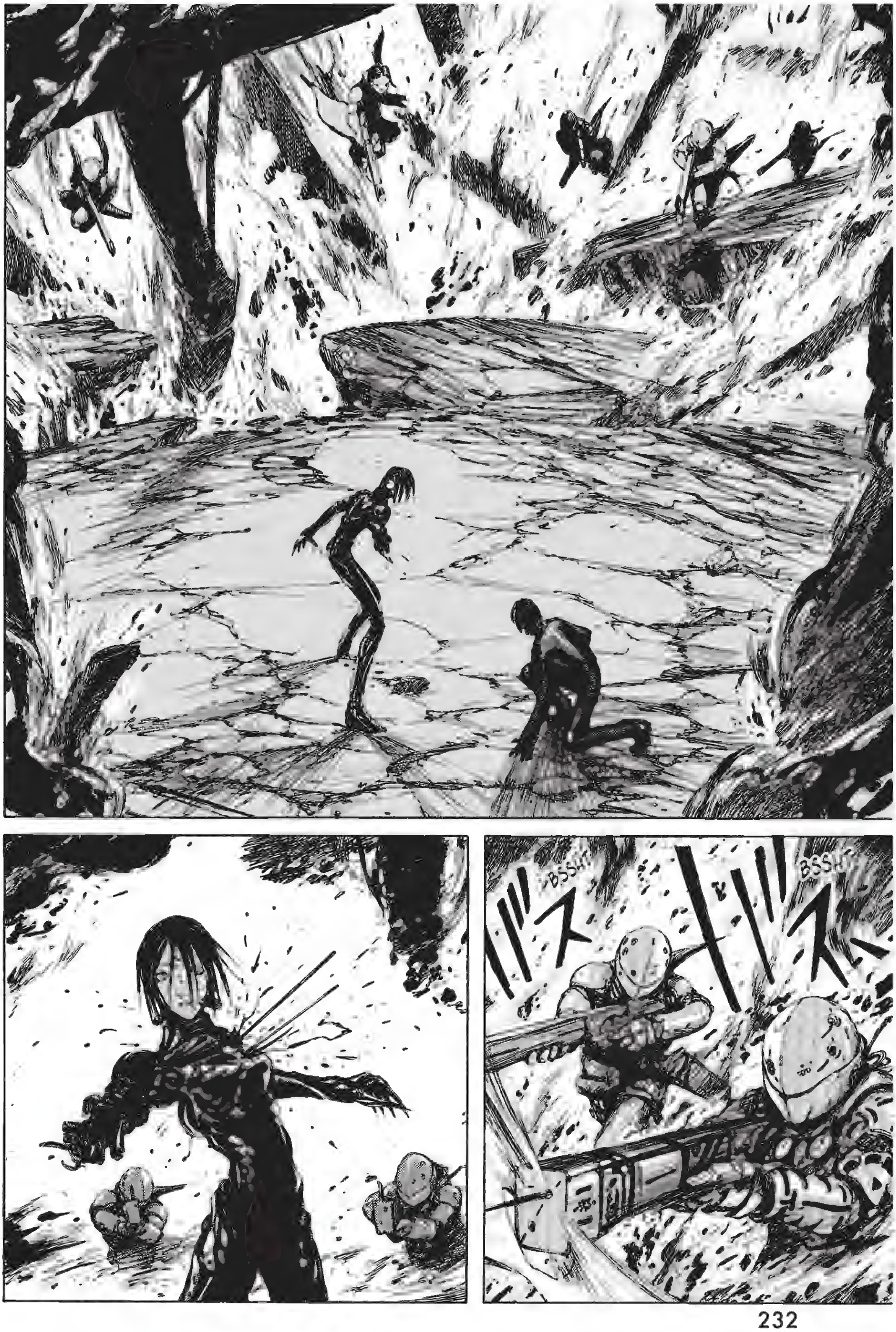

BOOM
GREEM
GREEM

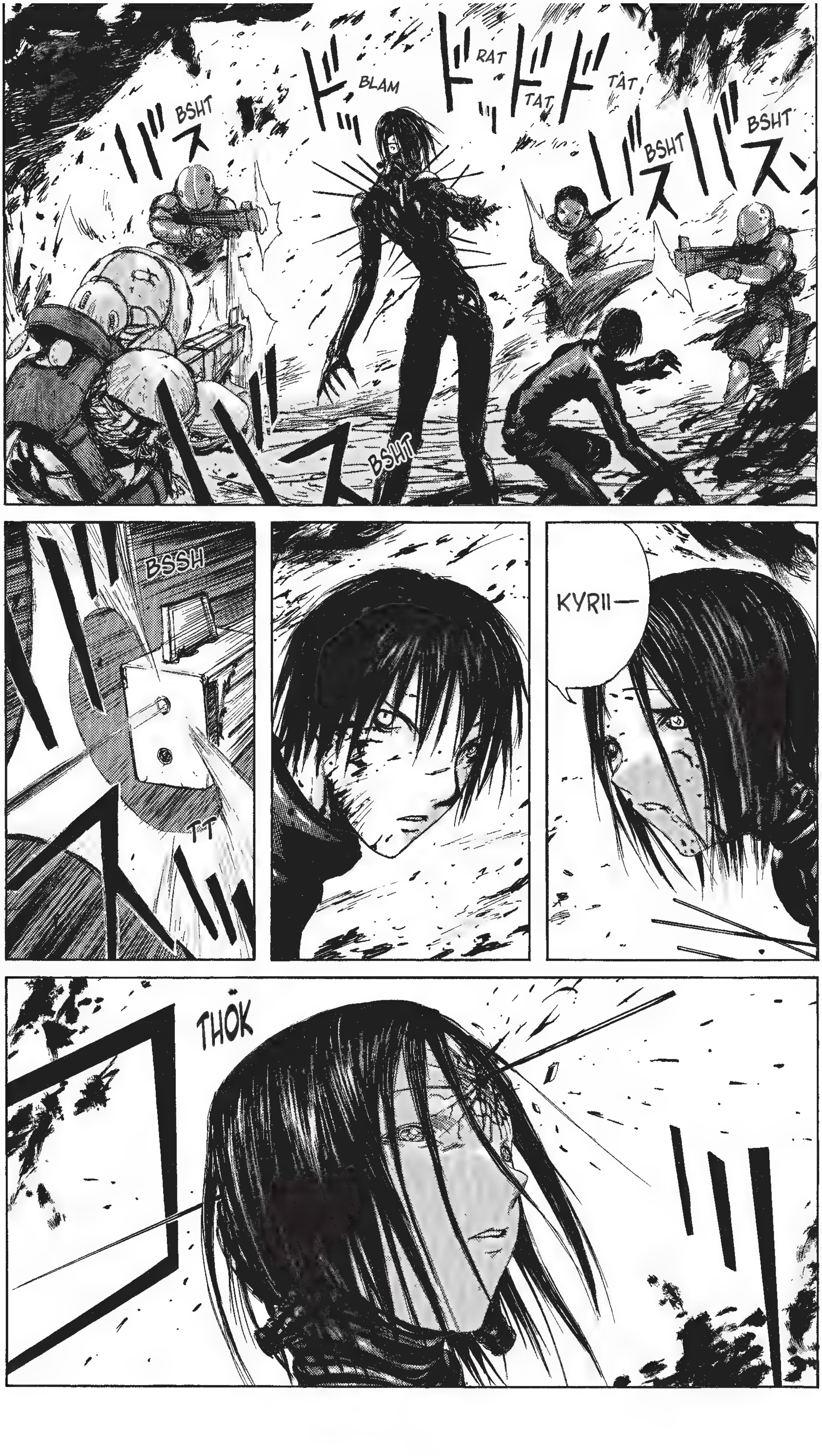

DUN
DUN
DUN

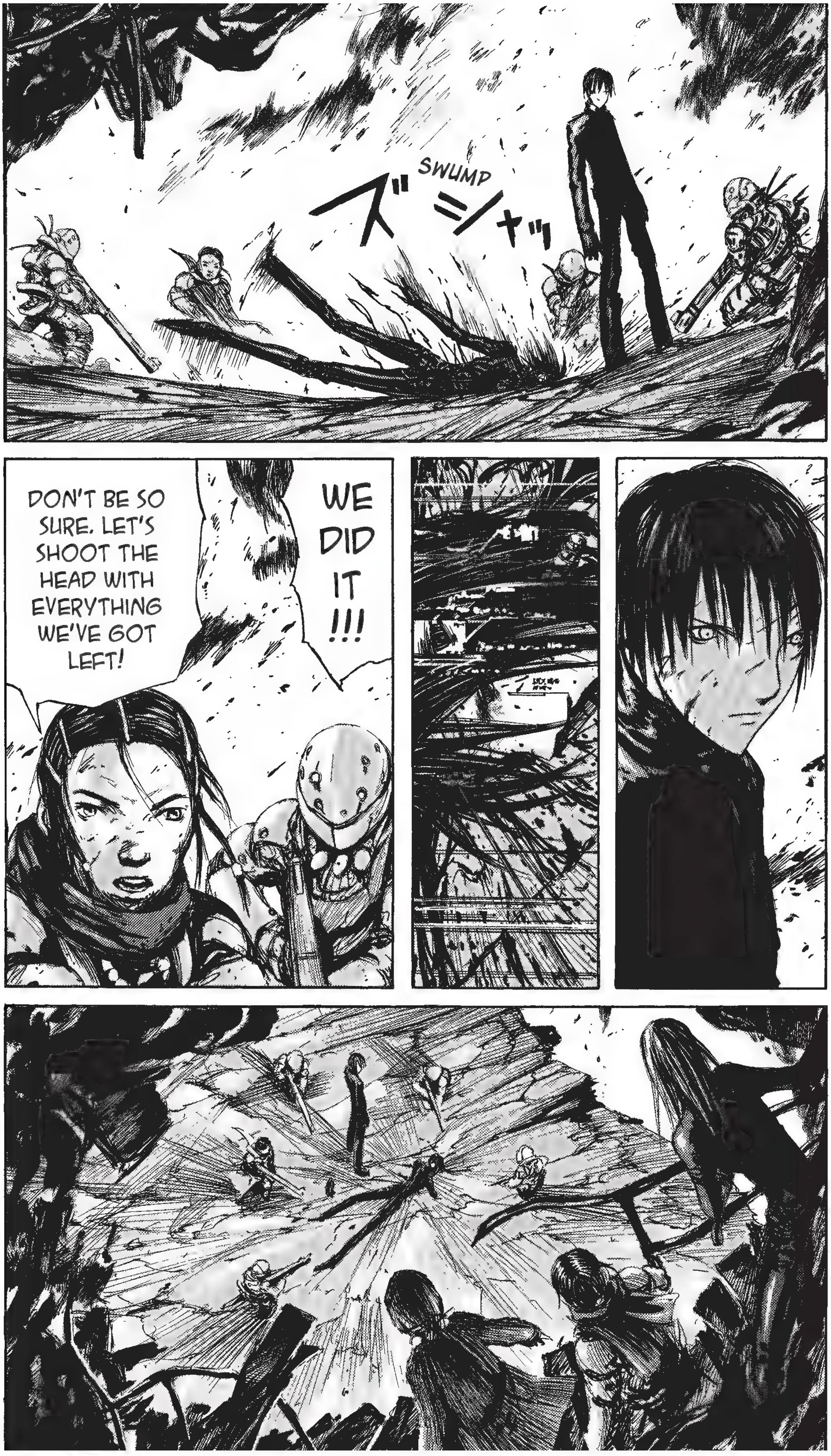


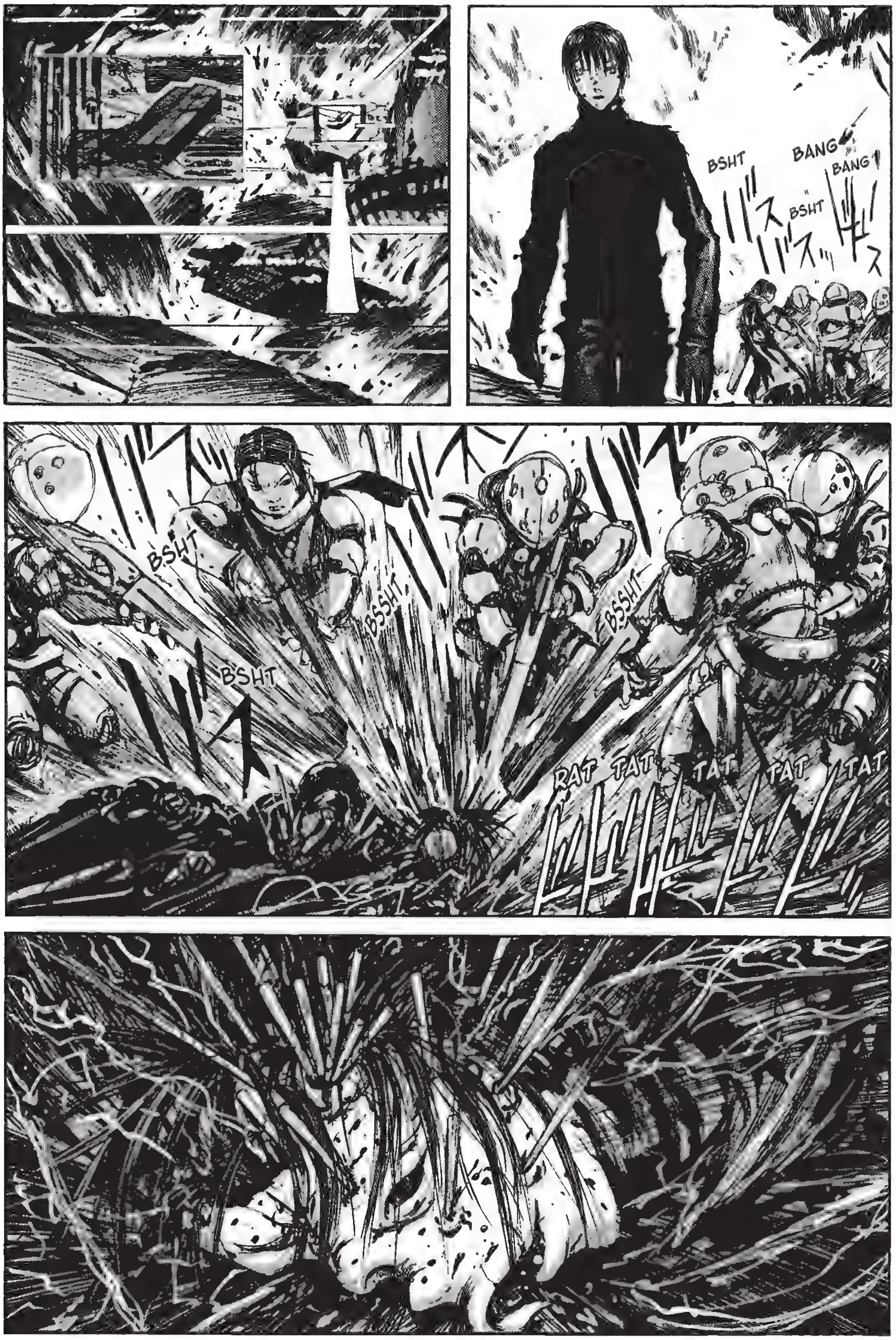

ZWID
KRAK

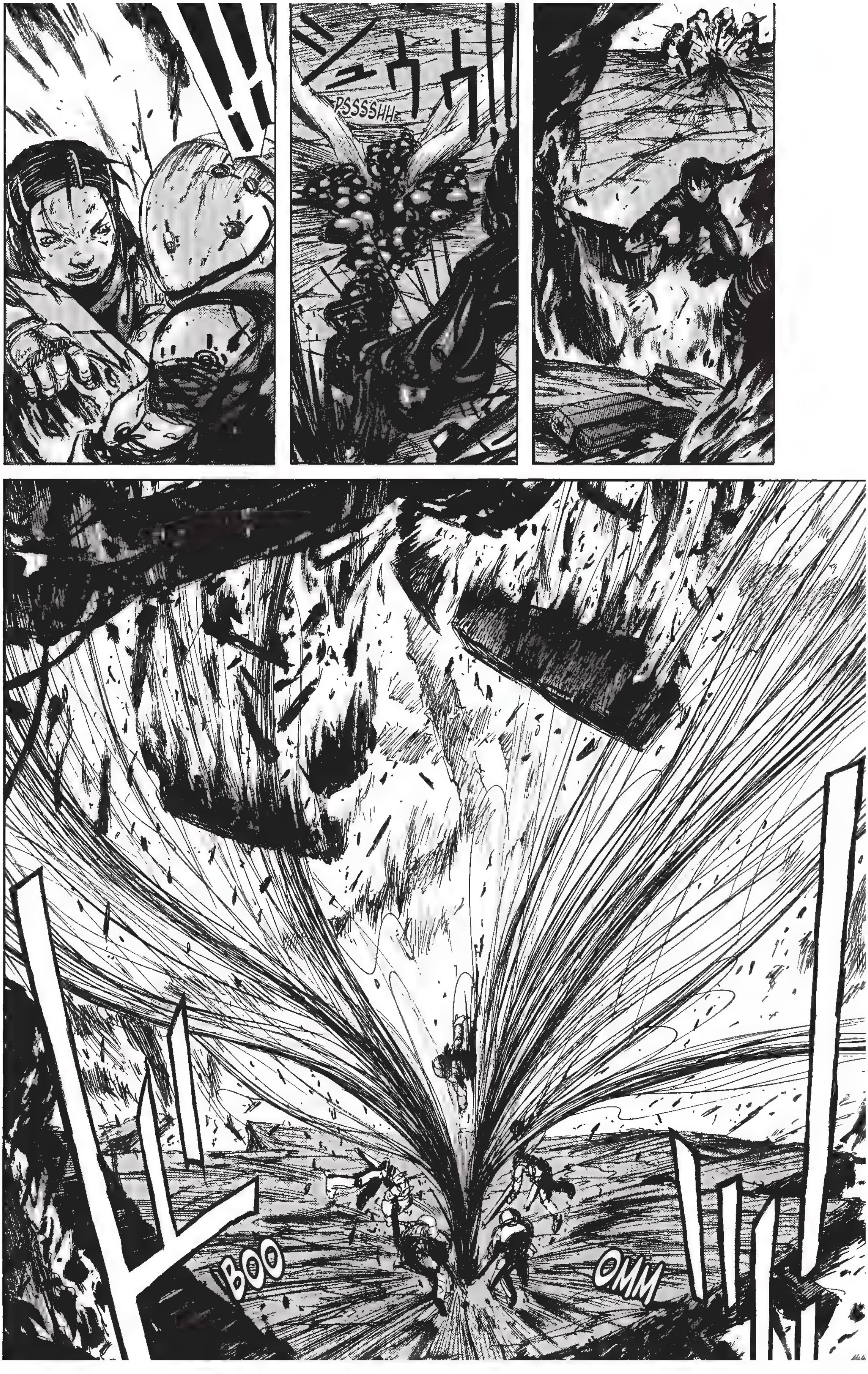

PSHOONT
KRING
BOOM

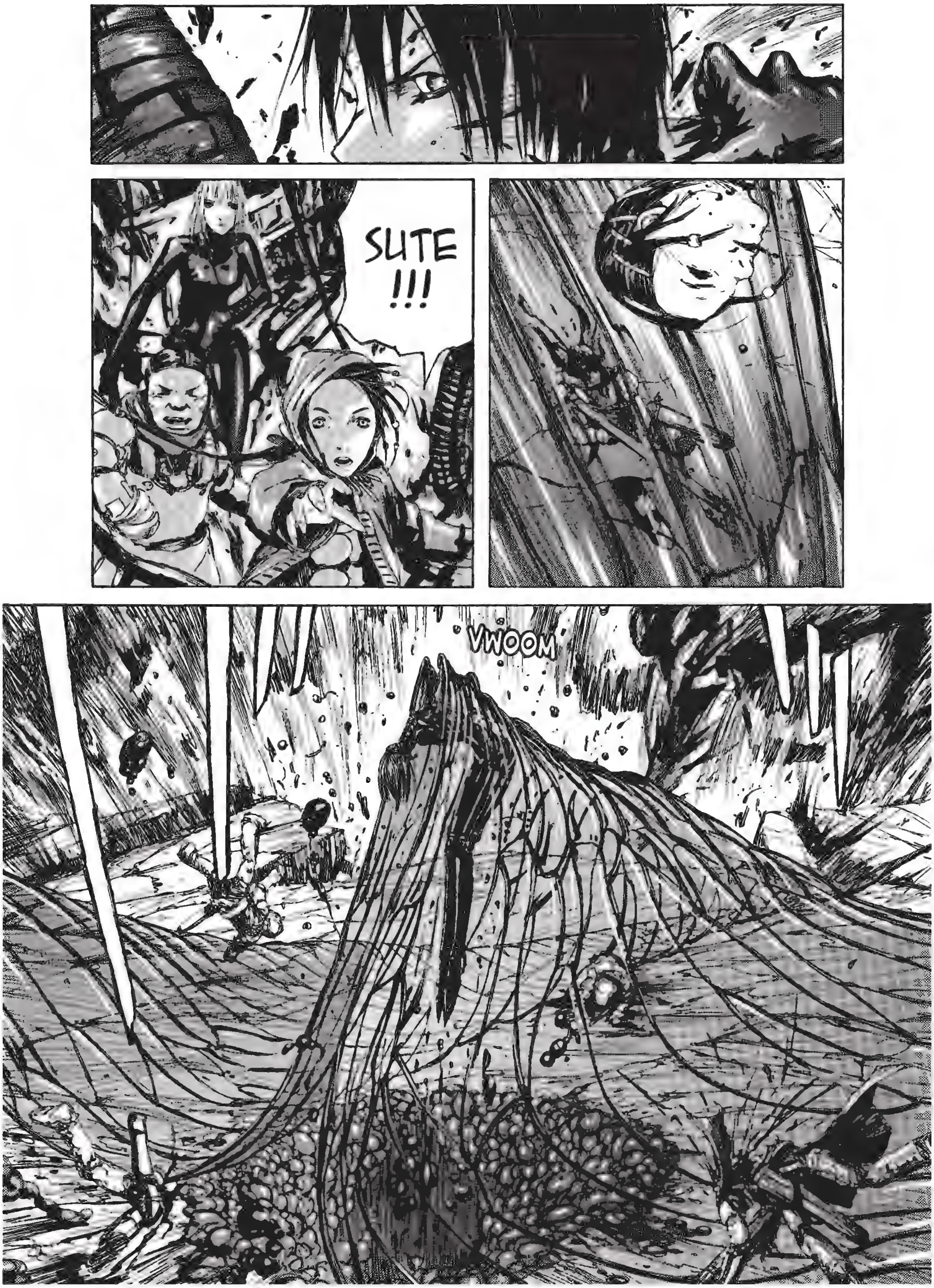

BSSHT
ドス
BSSHT
ドス


BSHT
バスン
BSHT
バス
TÂT
TAT
RAT
ドドド
BLAM
ドッ
BSHT
バス
BSHT
KYRII—
BSSH
TT
THÖK

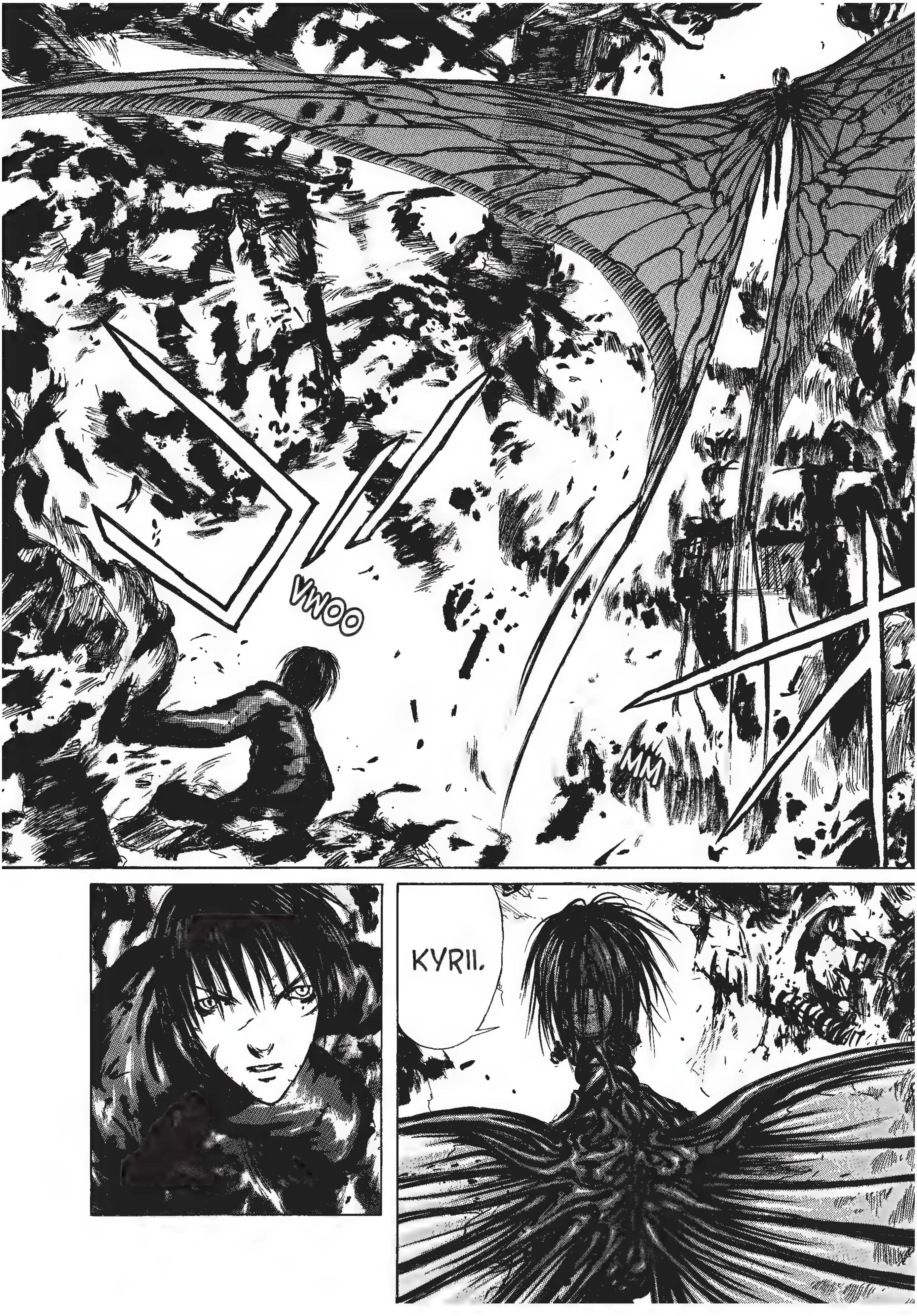

SWUMP
ズシャッ
WE DID IT!!!
DON'T BE SO SURE. LET'S SHOOT THE HEAD WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT LEFT!

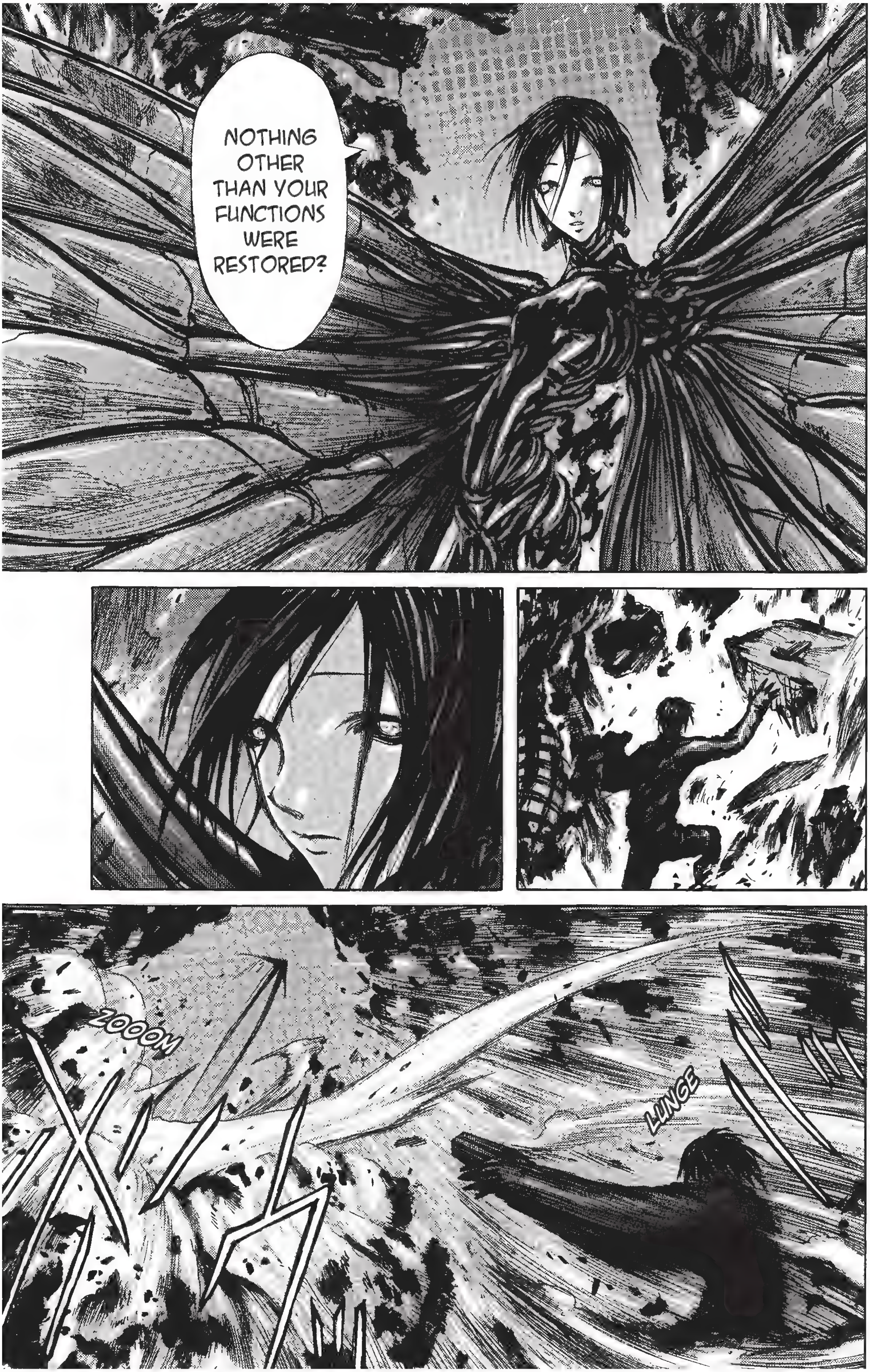

BANG
BANG
BSHT
BSHT
バス
バスッ
BSHT
BSHT
BSHT
BSHT
RAT TAT TAT TAT TAT

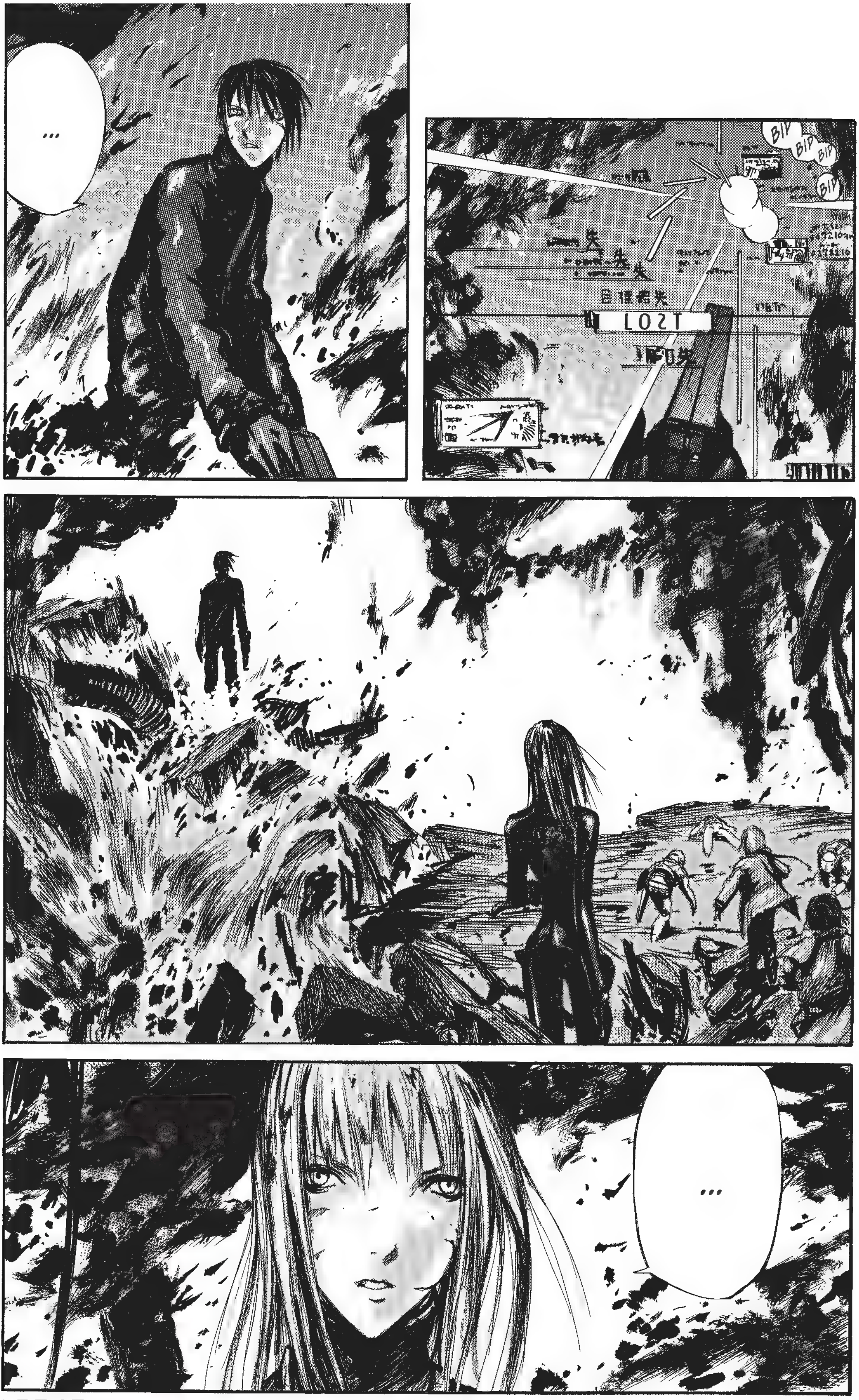

シュウウ!!
PSSSSHH
BOO
OMM



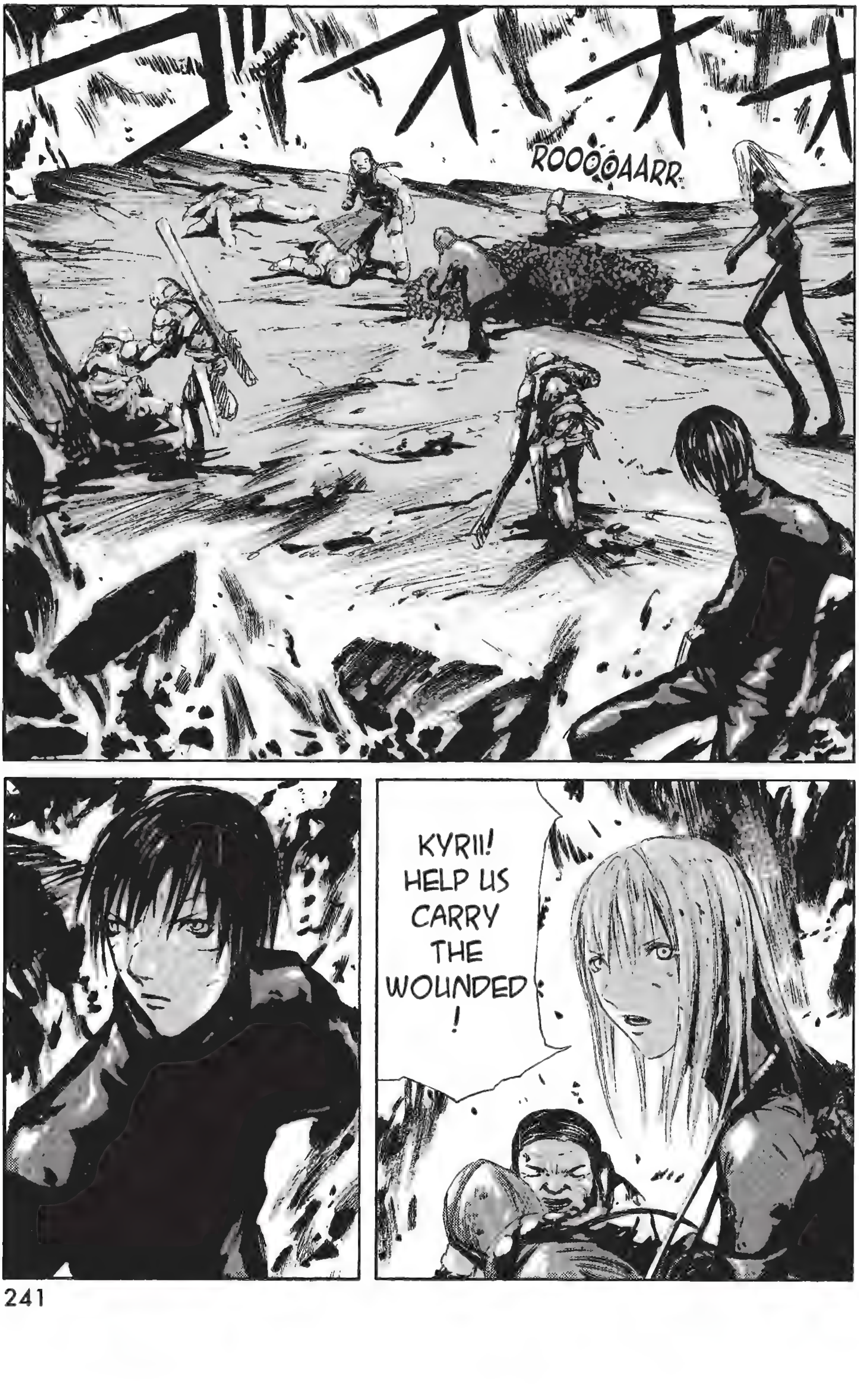
SUTE !!!
VWOOM

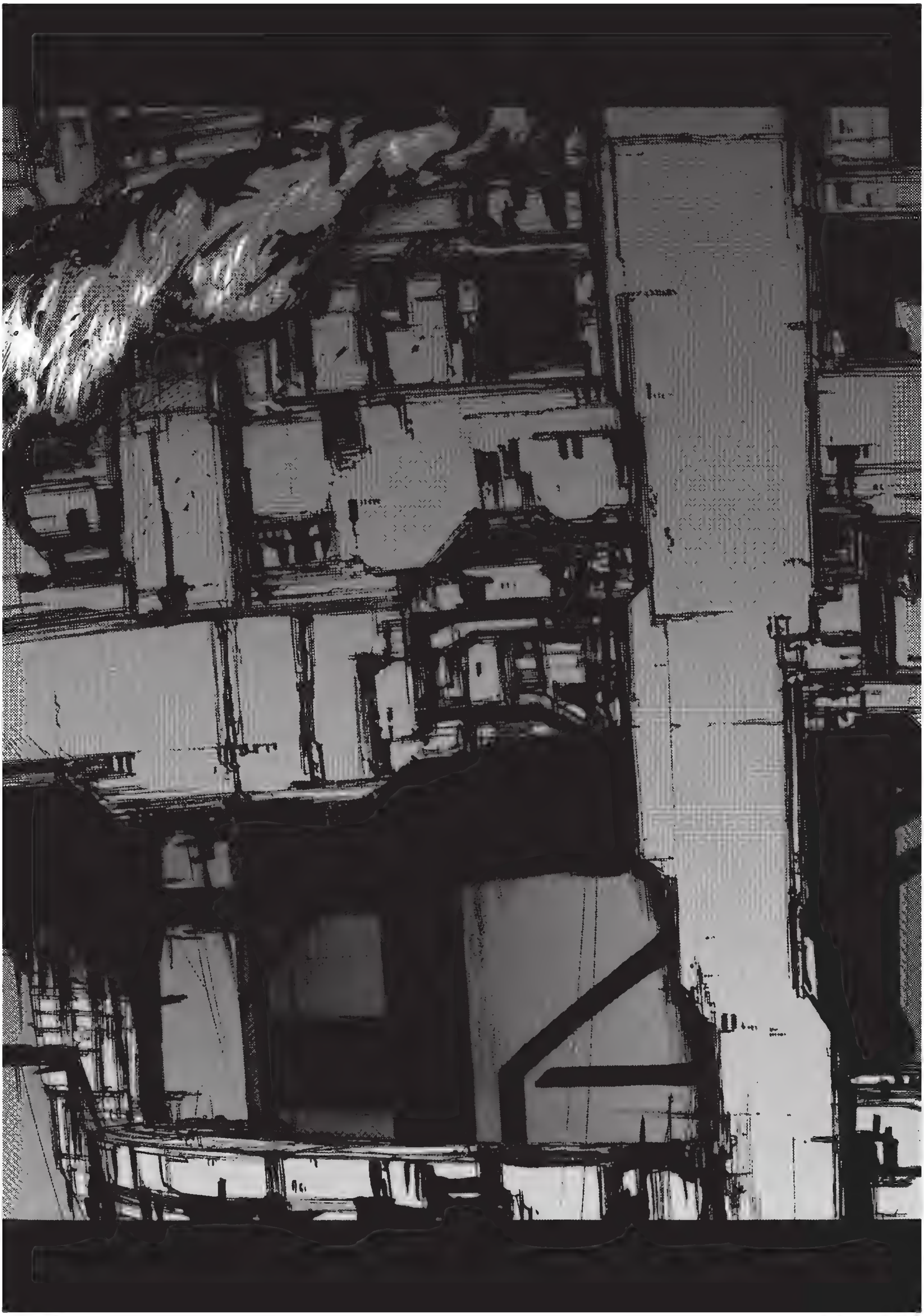

VWOO
MM
KYRII.

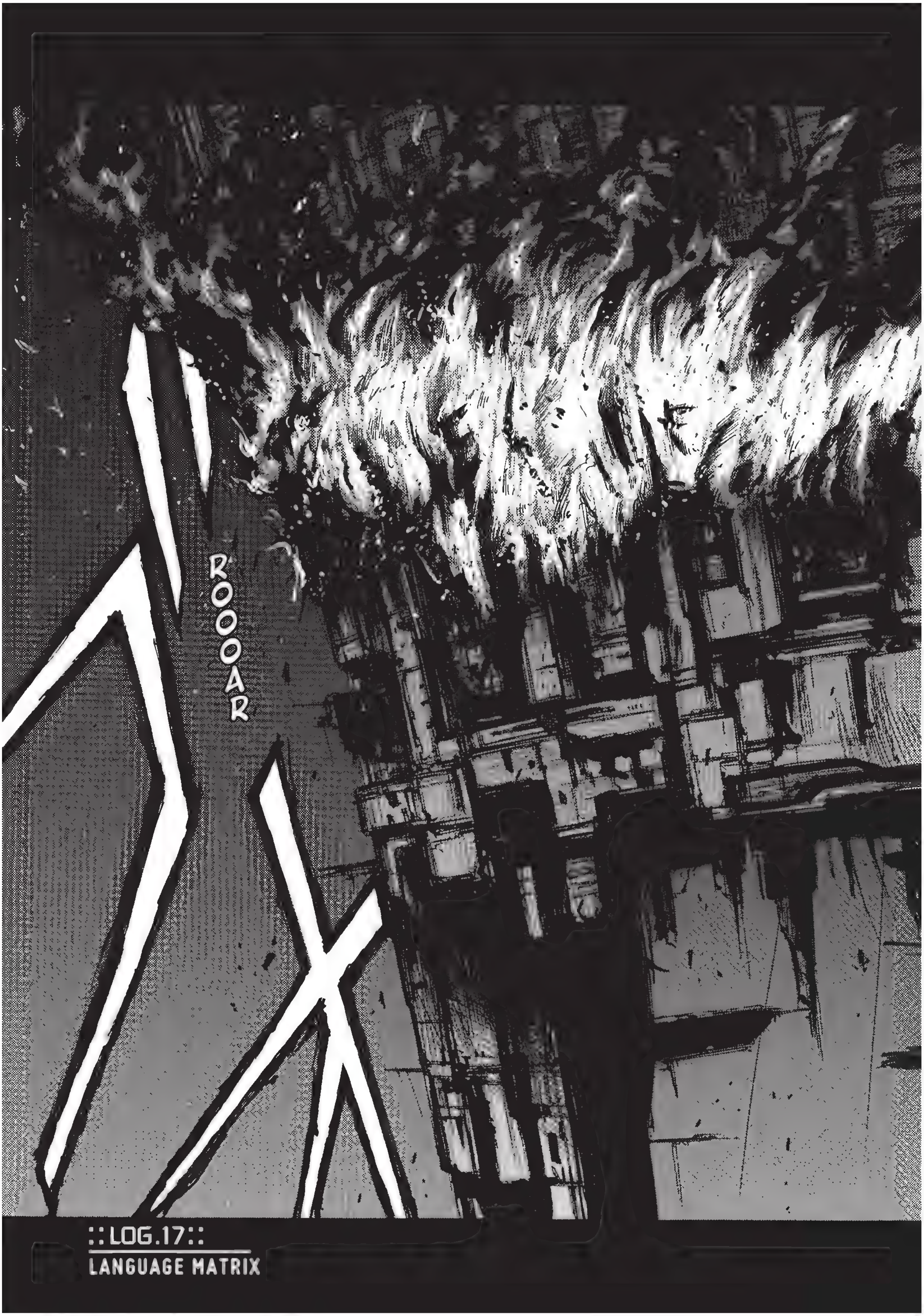

NOTHING OTHER THAN YOUR FUNCTIONS WERE RESTORED?
ZOOOM
LUNGE


BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
LOST
...
...

LOG.16:::END

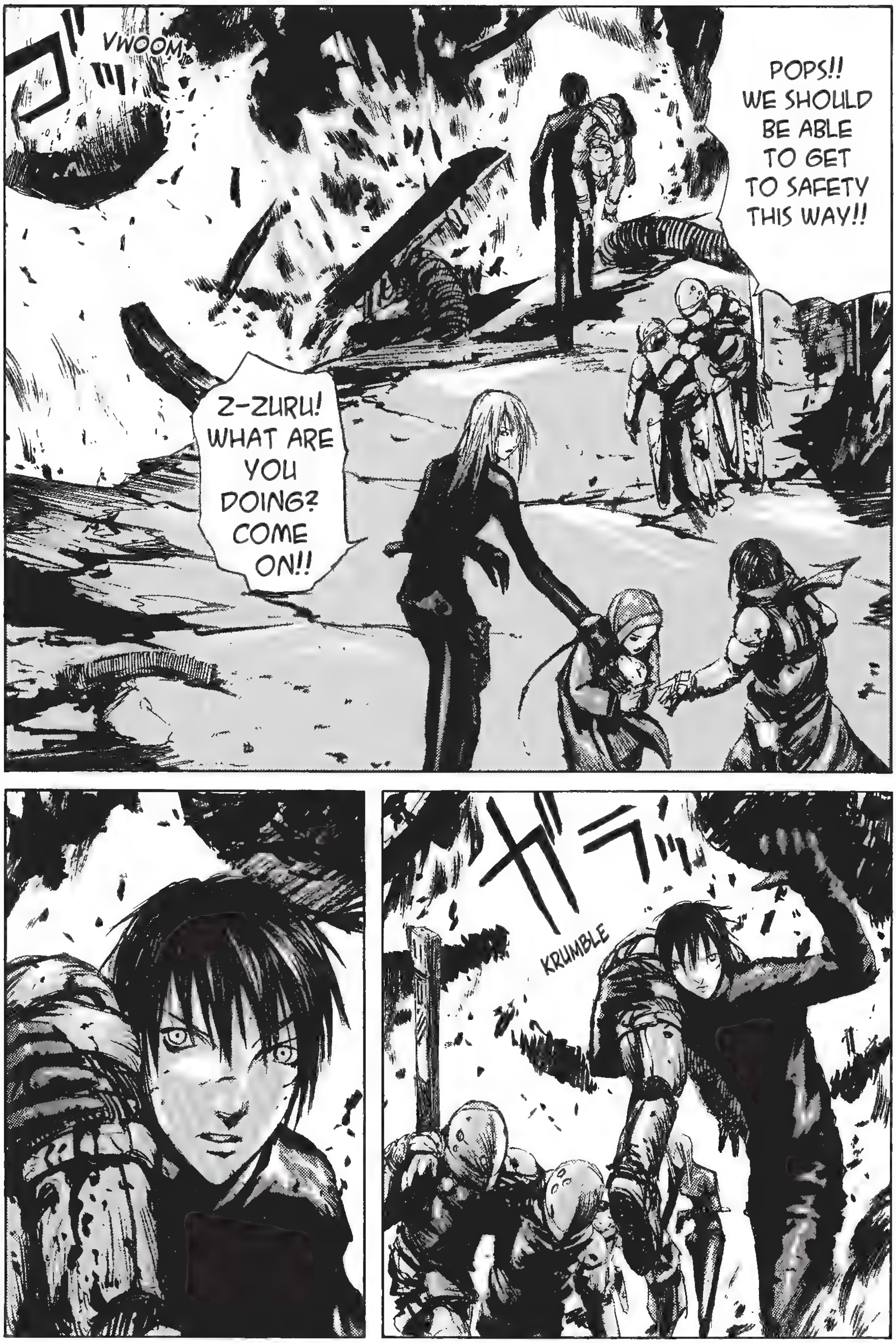

ROOOOAARR
KYRII! HELP US CARRY THE WOUNDED!

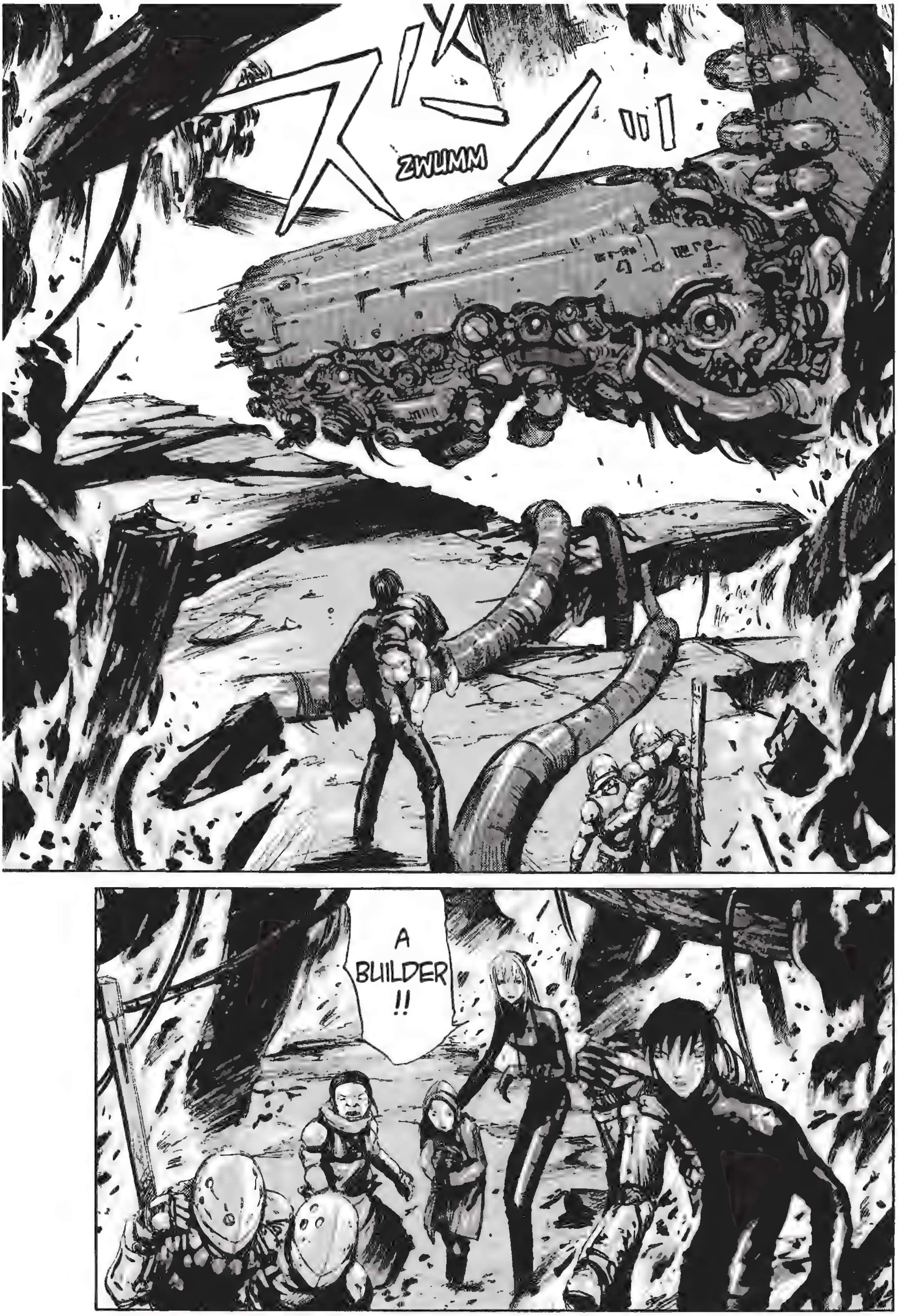


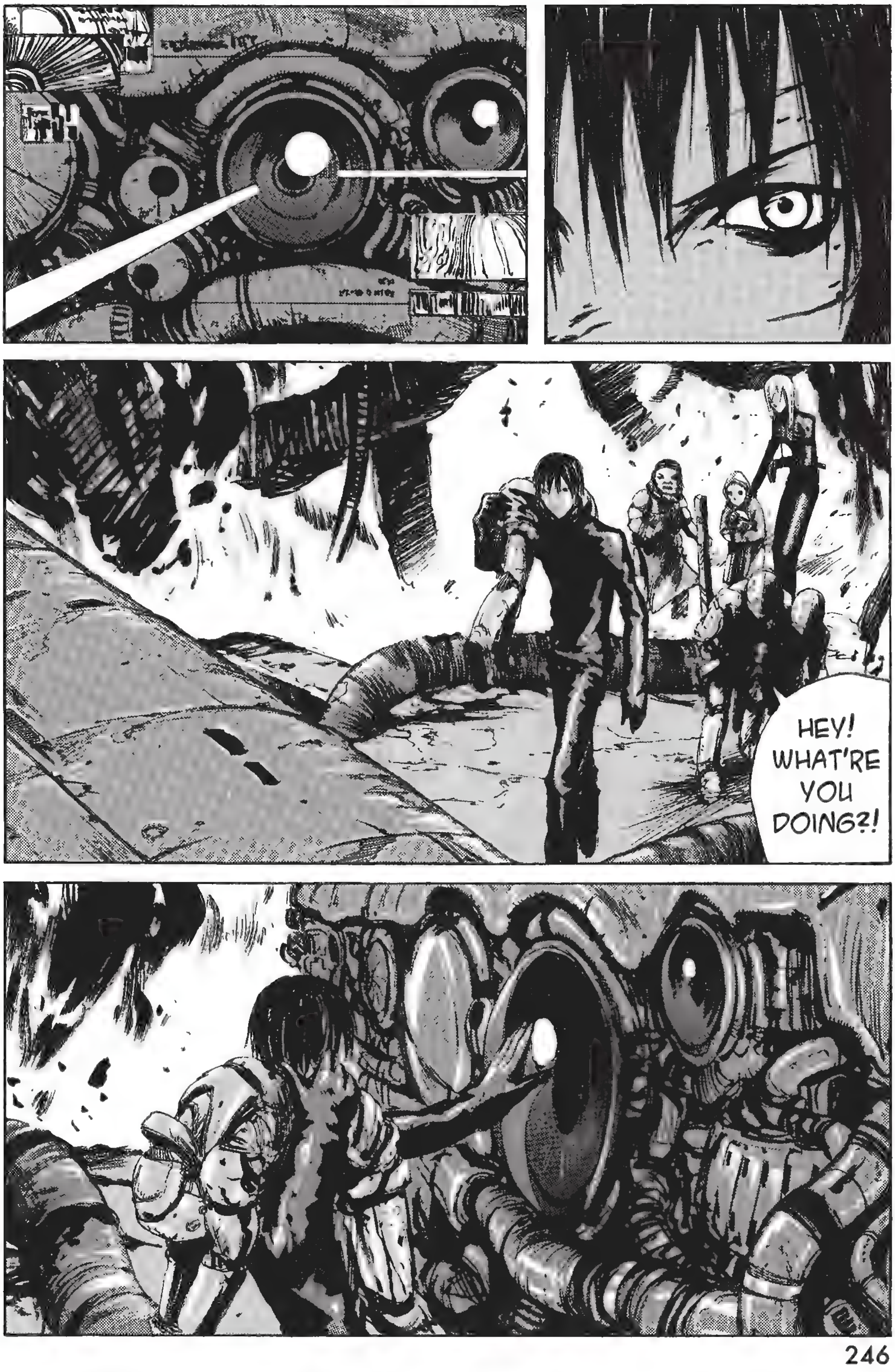


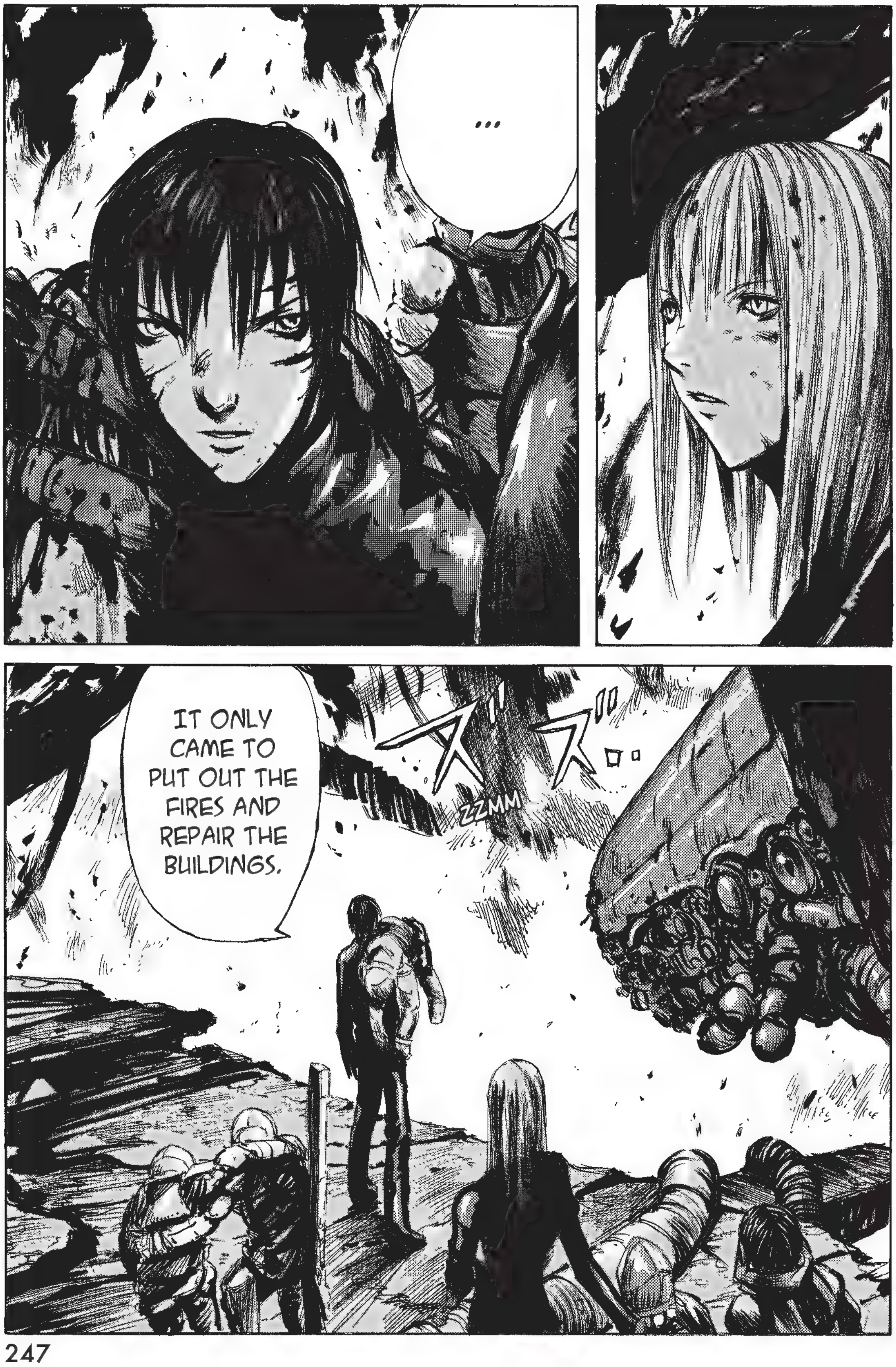
::LOG.17::

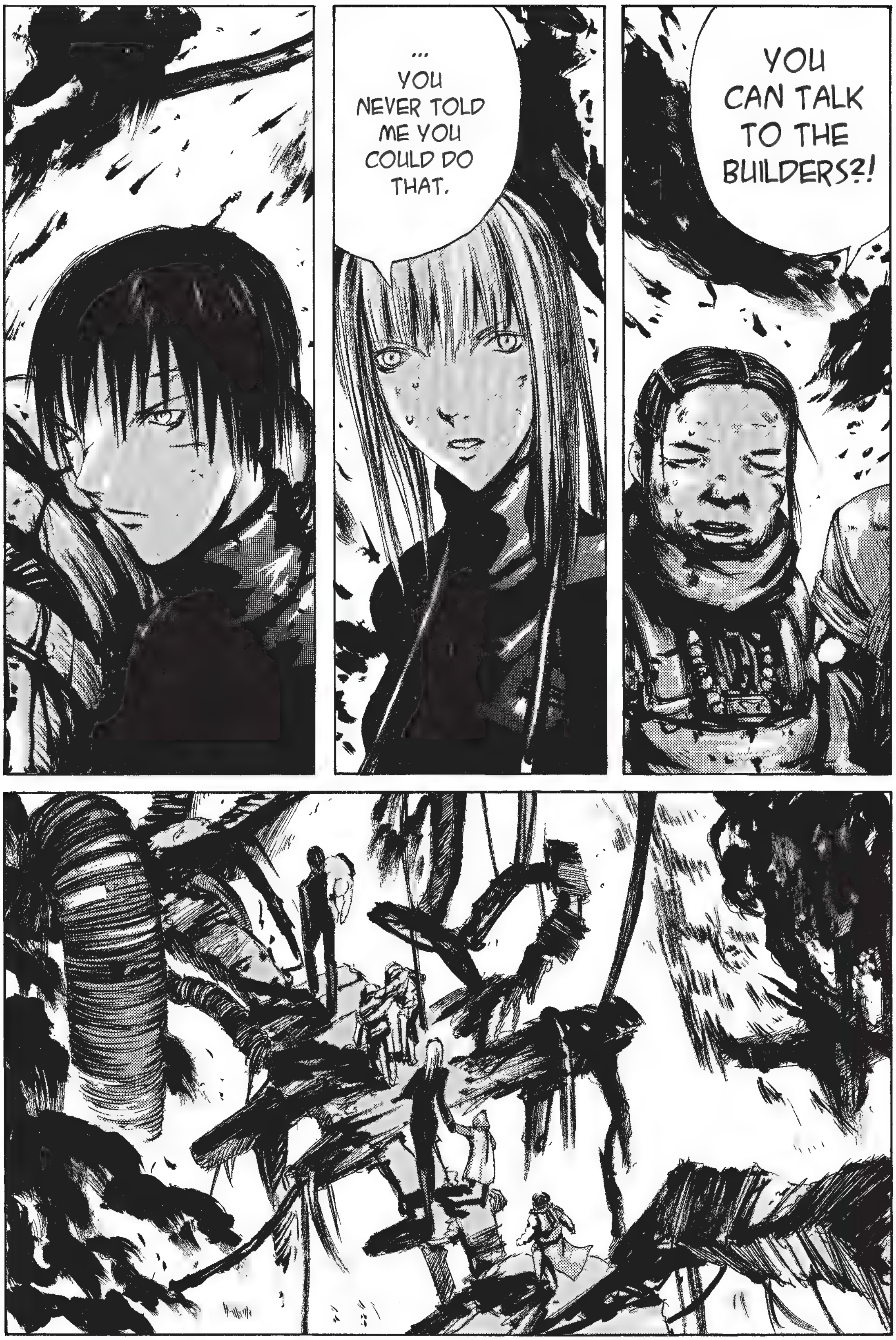
LANGUAGE MATRIX

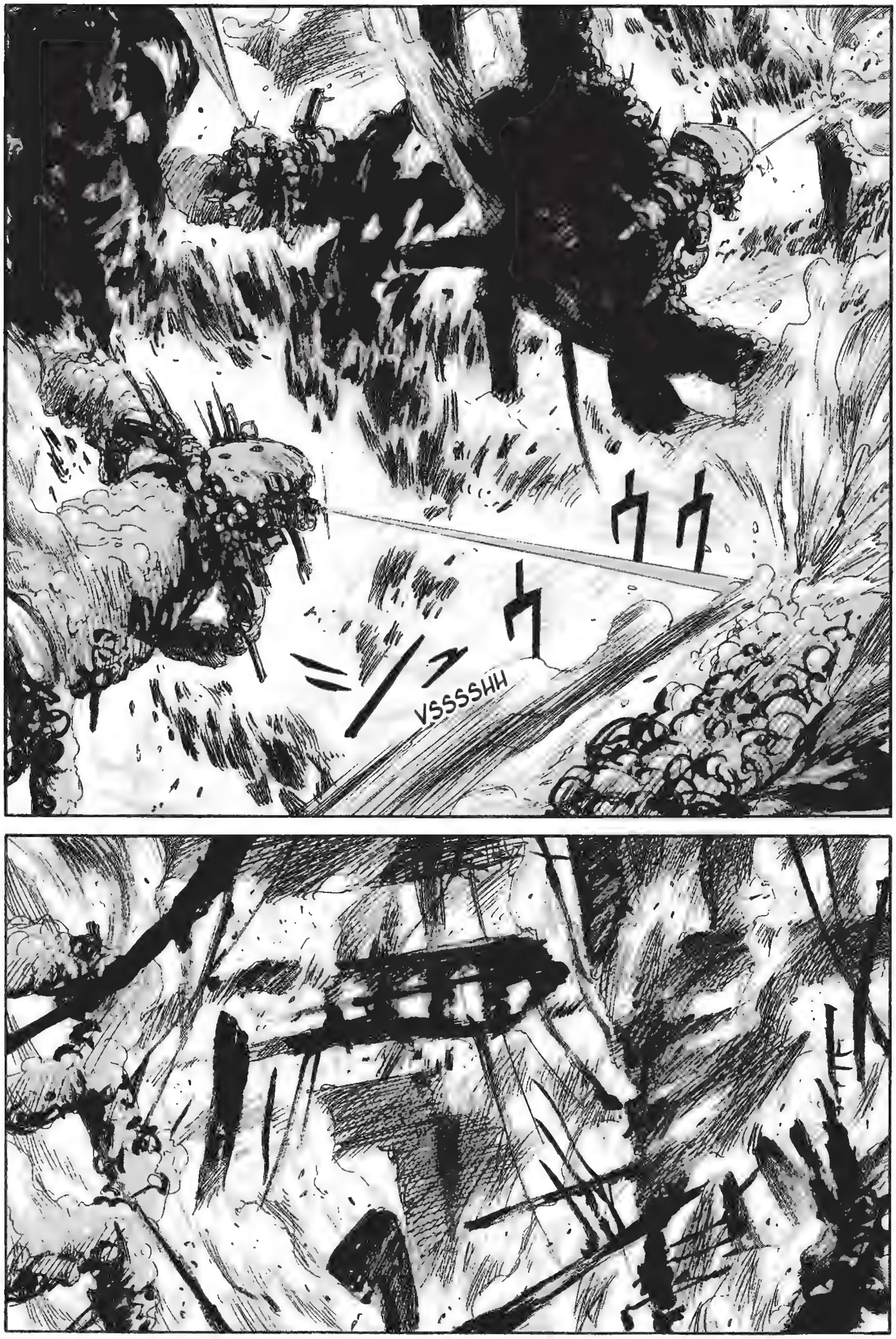

VWOOM
POPS!! WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET TO SAFETY THIS WAY!!
Z-ZURU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? COME ON!!
ガラッ
KRUMBLE

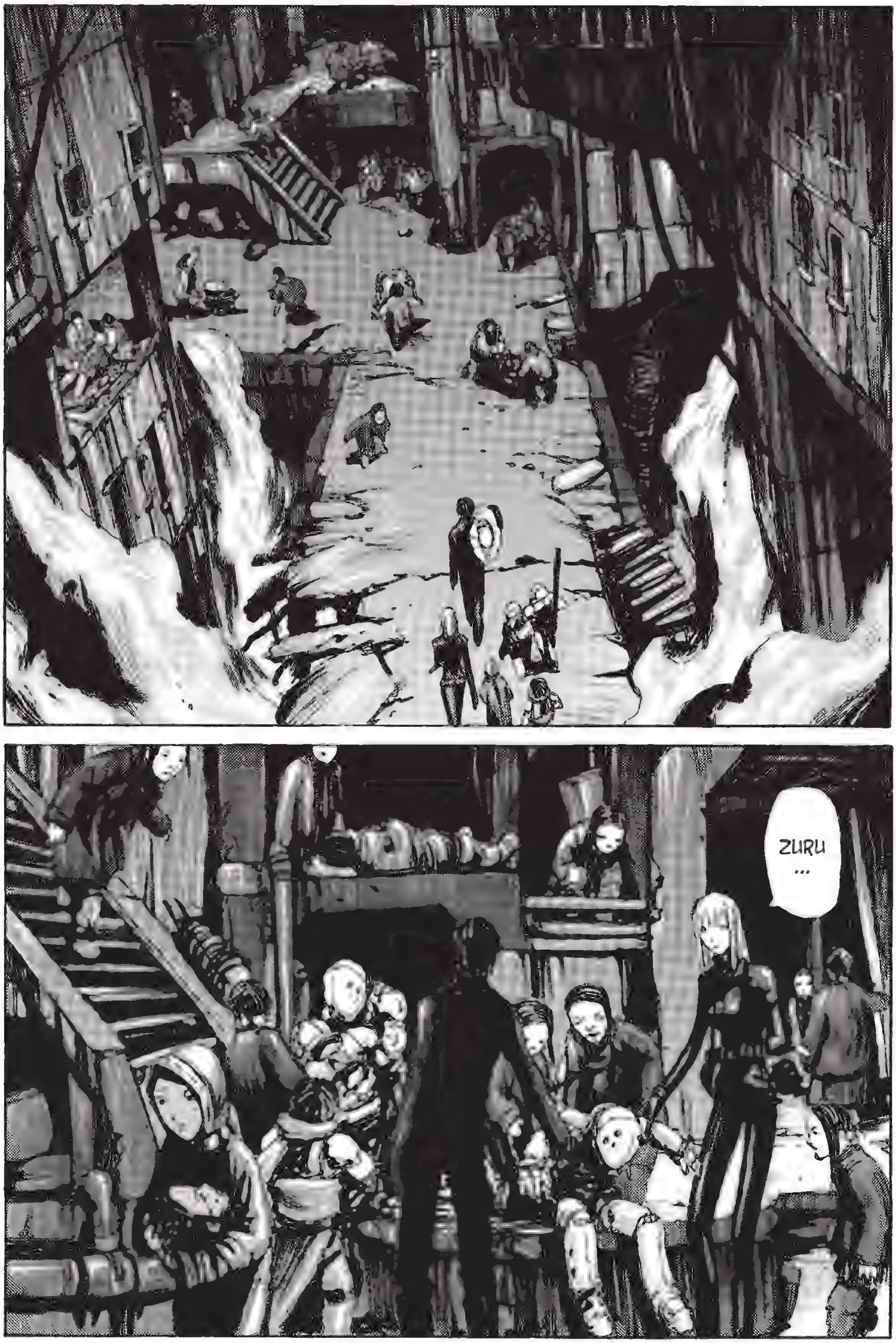

ZWUMM
A BUILDER !!

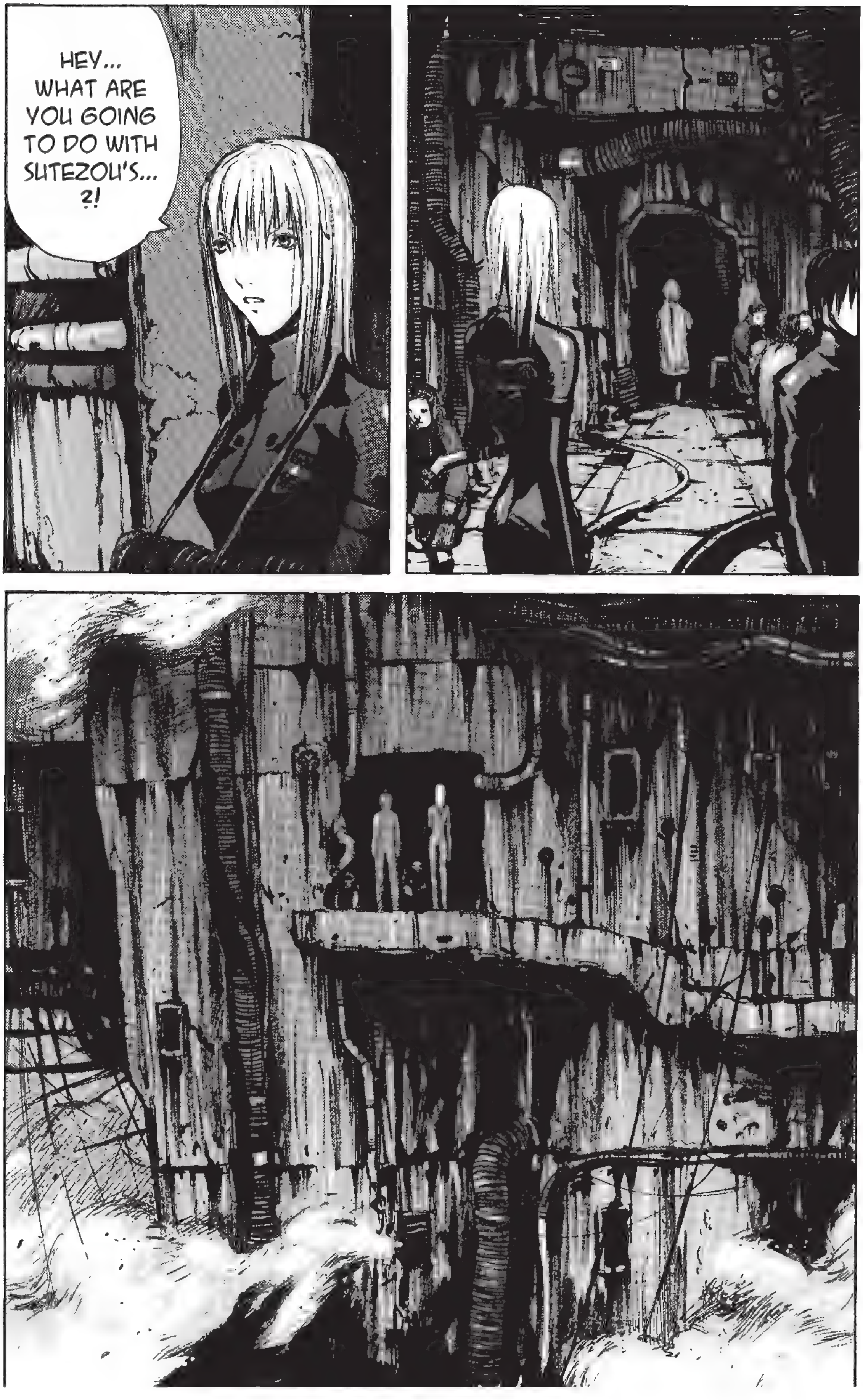

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

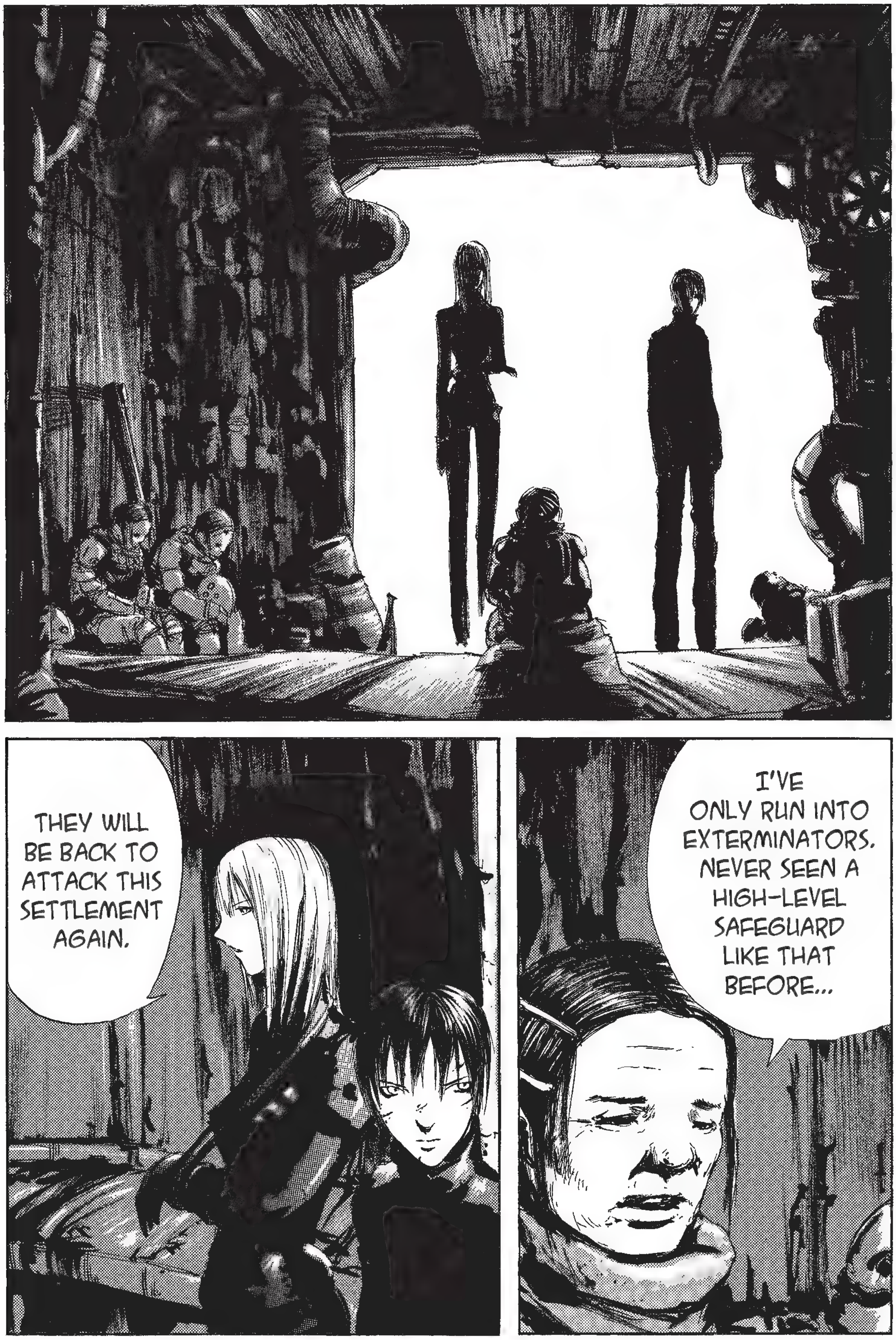

...
IT ONLY CAME TO PUT OUT THE FIRES AND REPAIR THE BUILDINGS.
ズズ
ZZMM

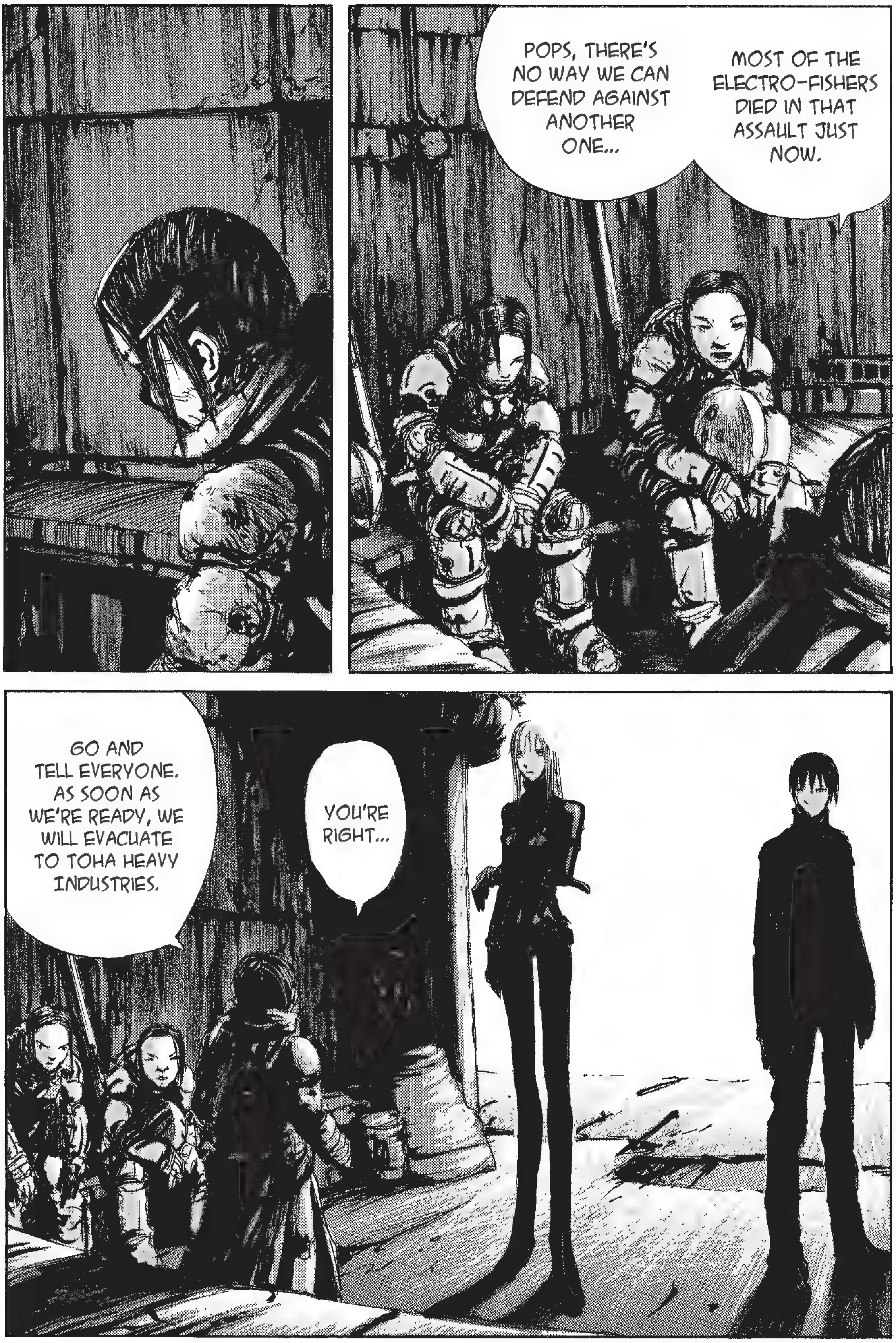

YOU CAN TALK TO THE BUILDERS?!
... YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU COULD DO THAT.

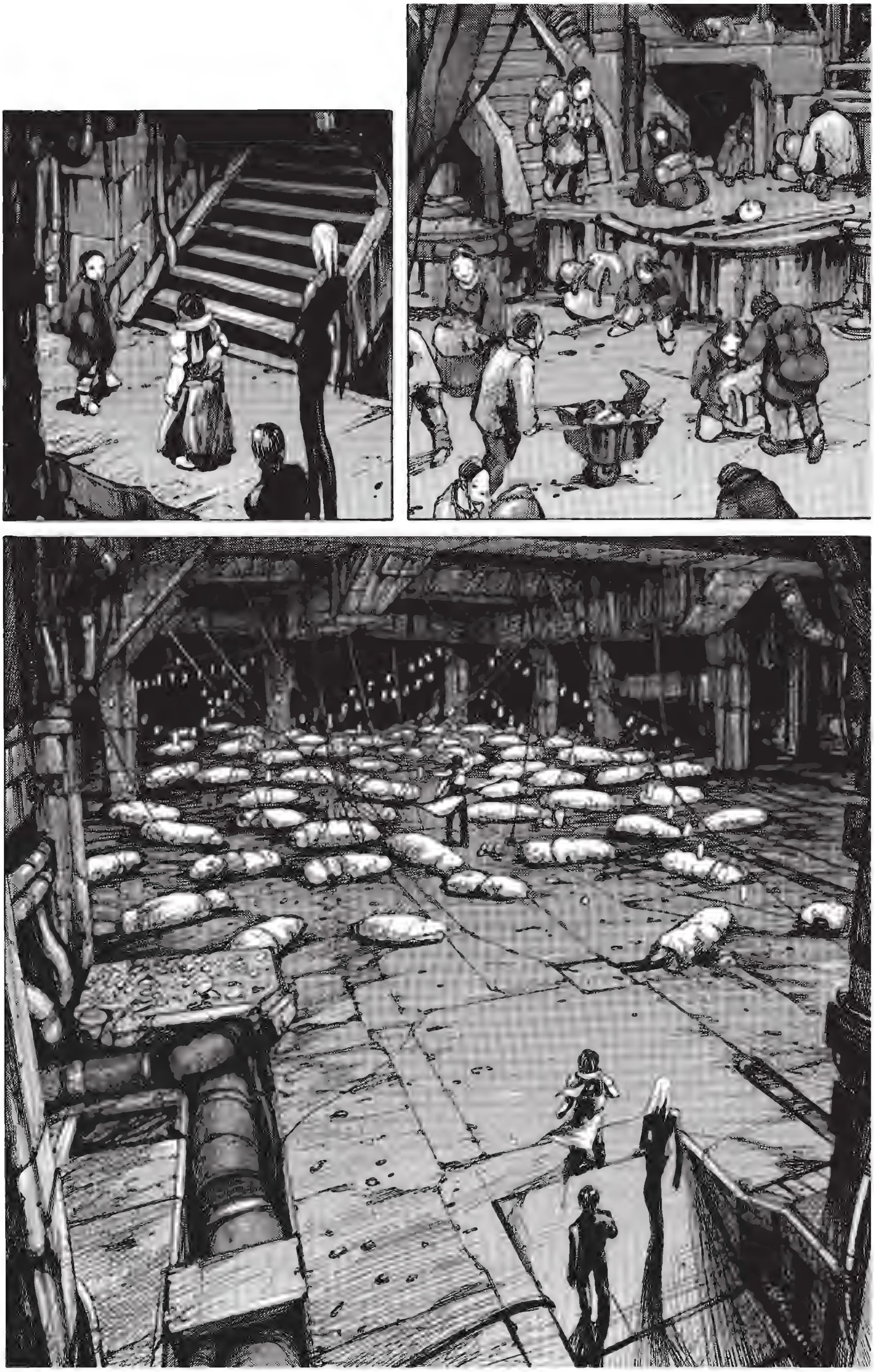

ウウ
ウ
VSSSSHH

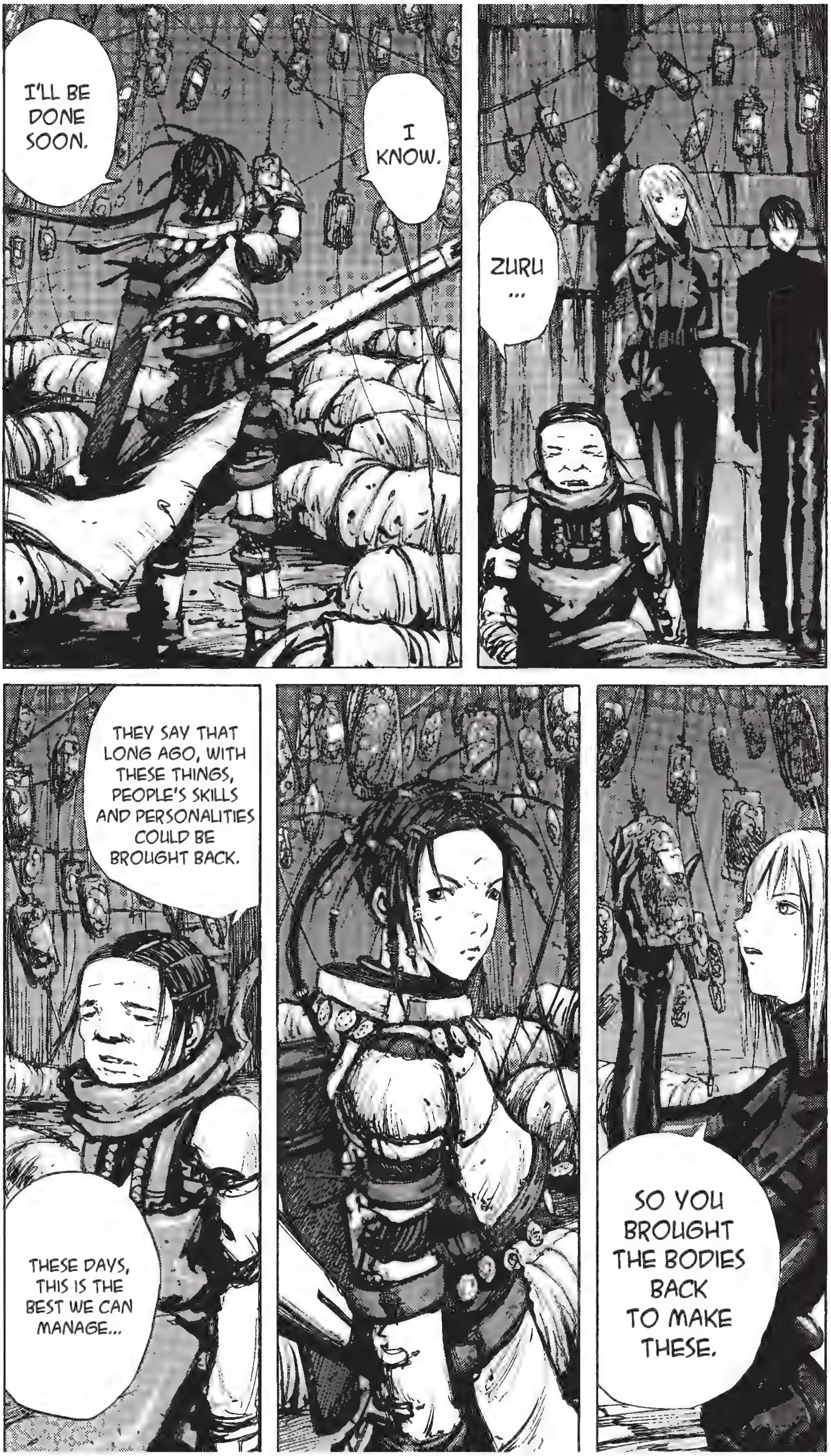

ZURU
...

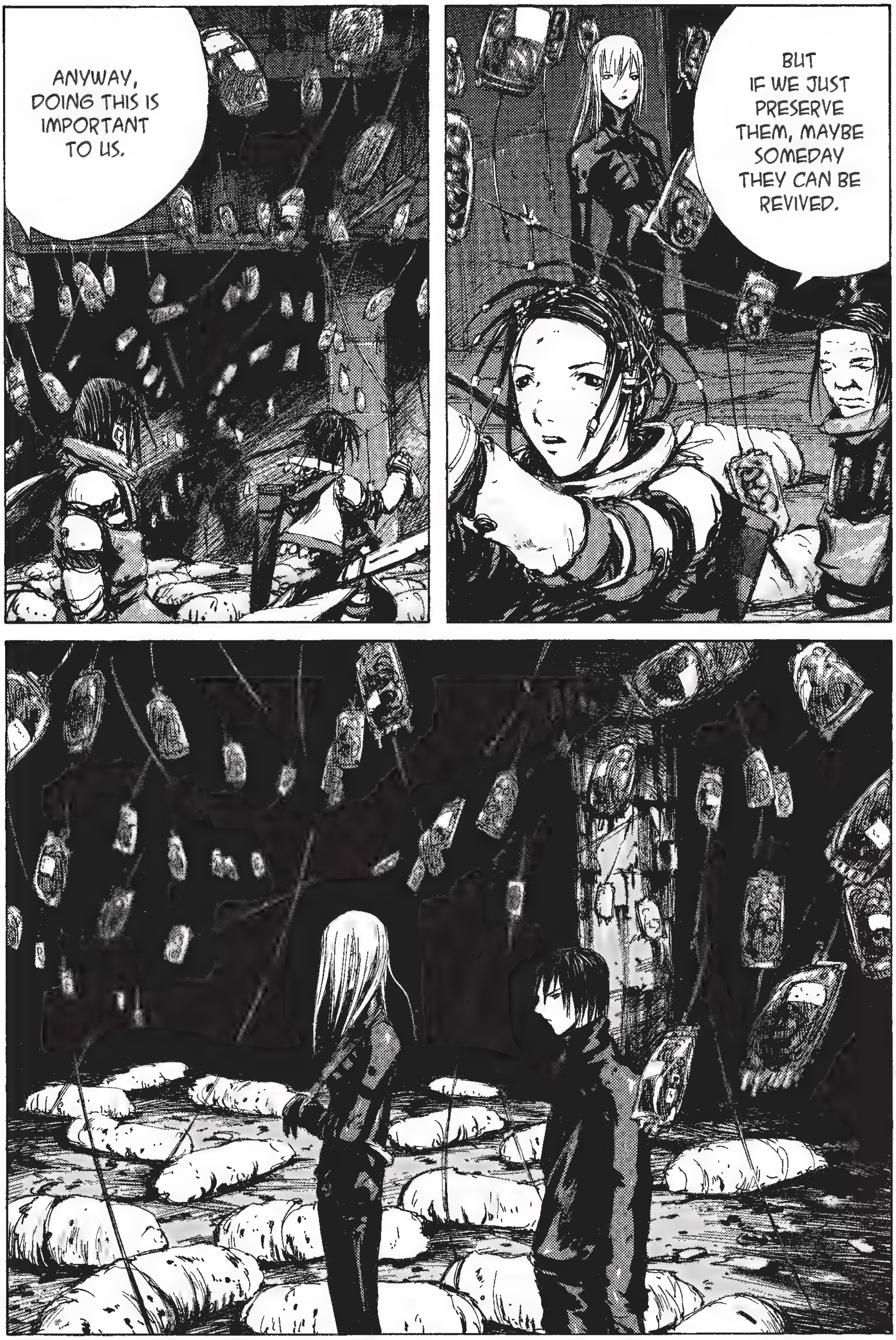

HEY... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH SUTEZOU'S... ?!

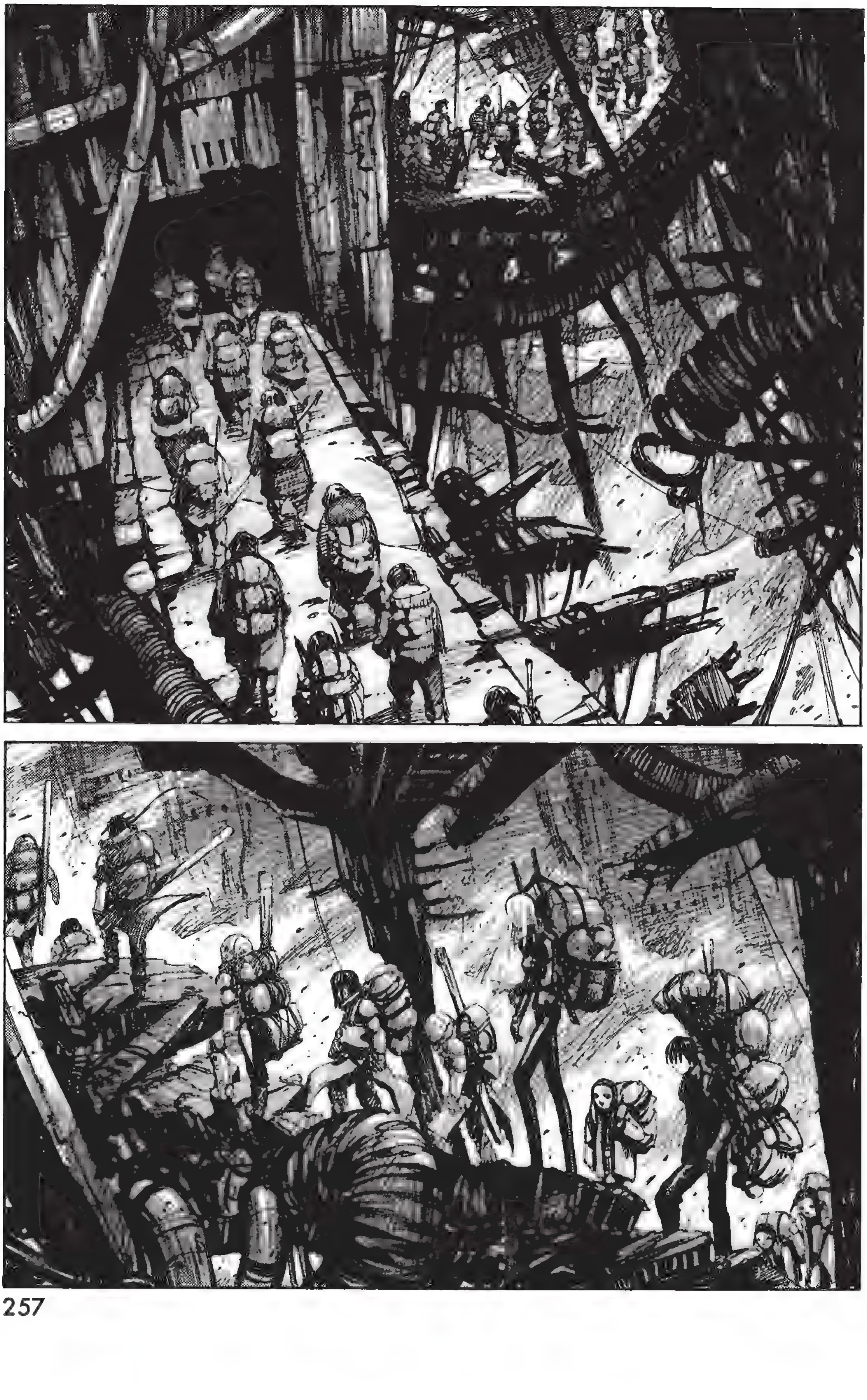

I'VE ONLY RUN INTO EXTERMINATORS. NEVER SEEN A HIGH-LEVEL SAFEGUARD LIKE THAT BEFORE...
THEY WILL BE BACK TO ATTACK THIS SETTLEMENT AGAIN.

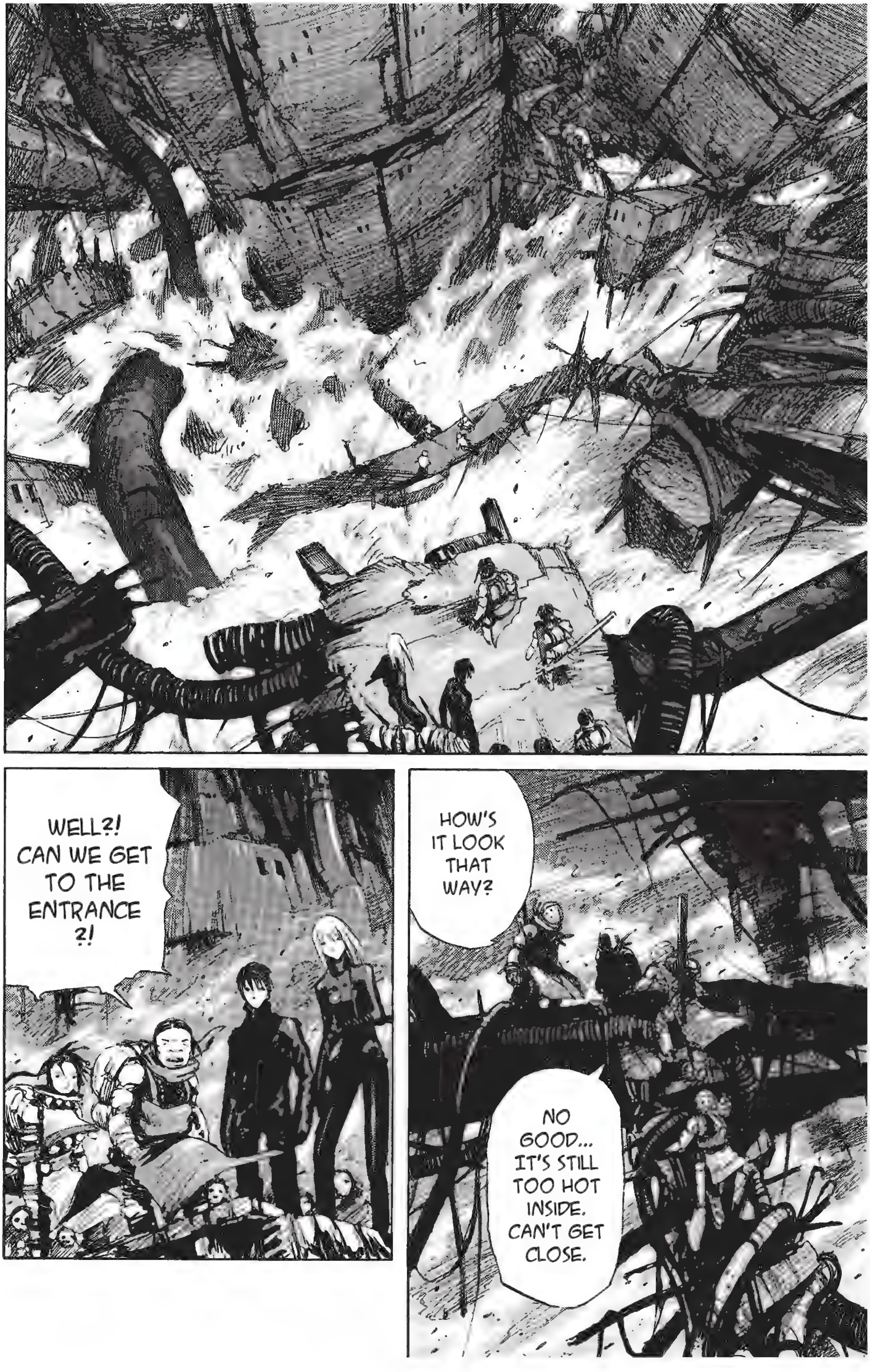

MOST OF THE ELECTRO-FISHERS DIED IN THAT ASSAULT JUST NOW.
POPS, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN DEFEND AGAINST ANOTHER ONE...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
GO AND TELL EVERYONE. AS SOON AS WE'RE READY, WE WILL EVACUATE TO TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES.

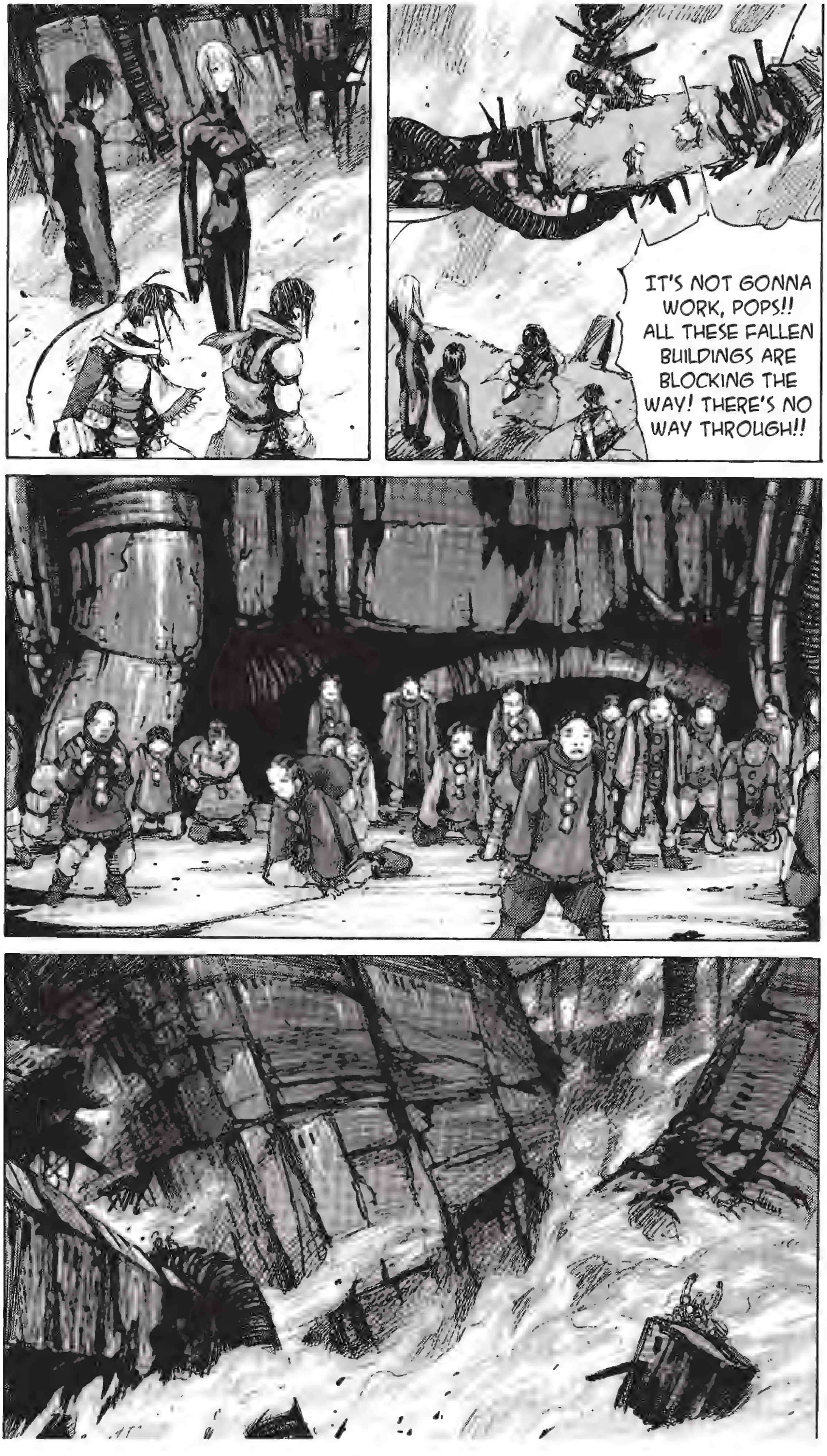


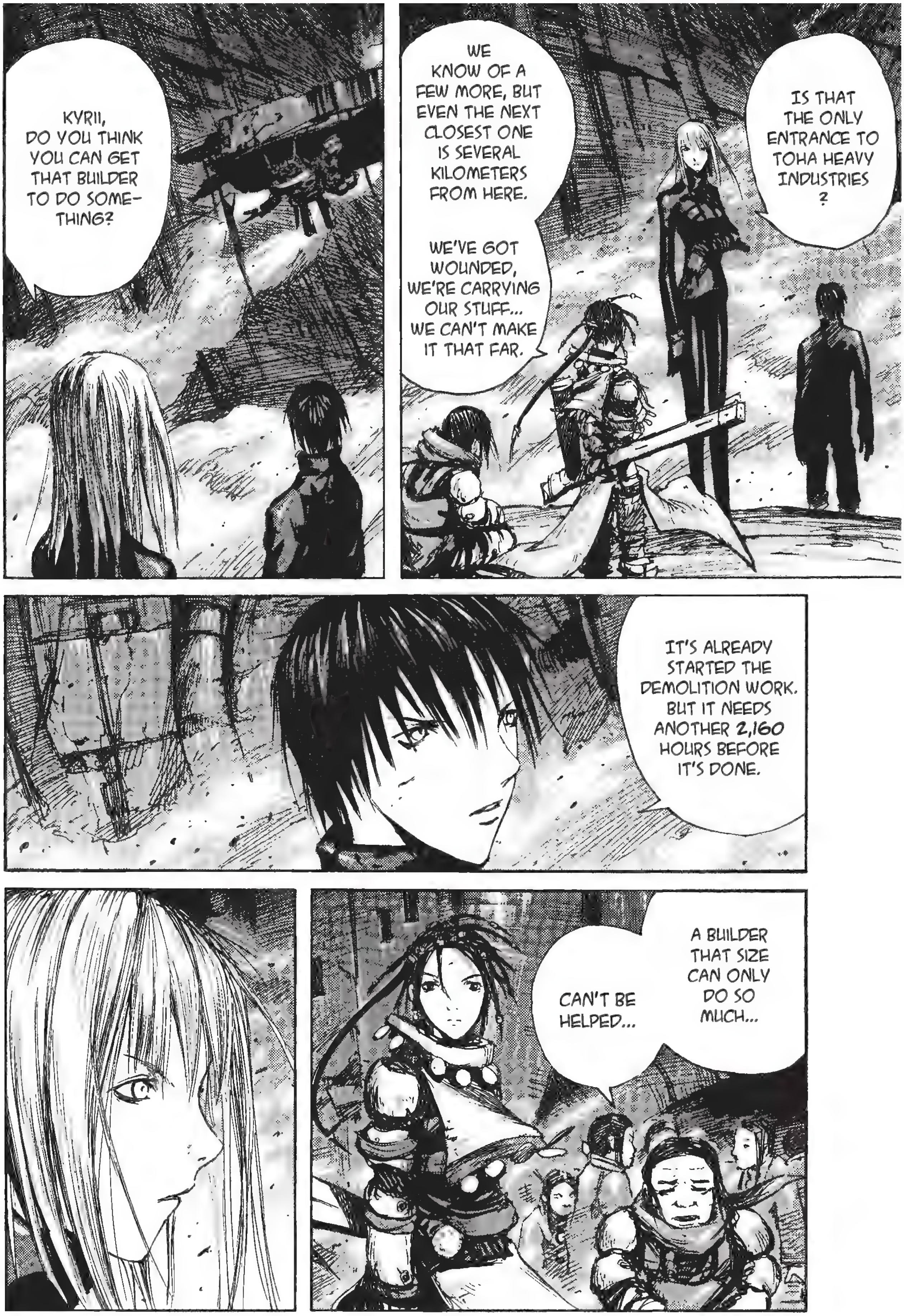

I'LL BE DONE SOON.
I KNOW.
ZURU ...
THEY SAY THAT LONG AGO, WITH THESE THINGS, PEOPLE'S SKILLS AND PERSONALITIES COULD BE BROUGHT BACK.
THESE DAYS, THIS IS THE BEST WE CAN MANAGE...
SO YOU BROUGHT THE BODIES BACK TO MAKE THESE.

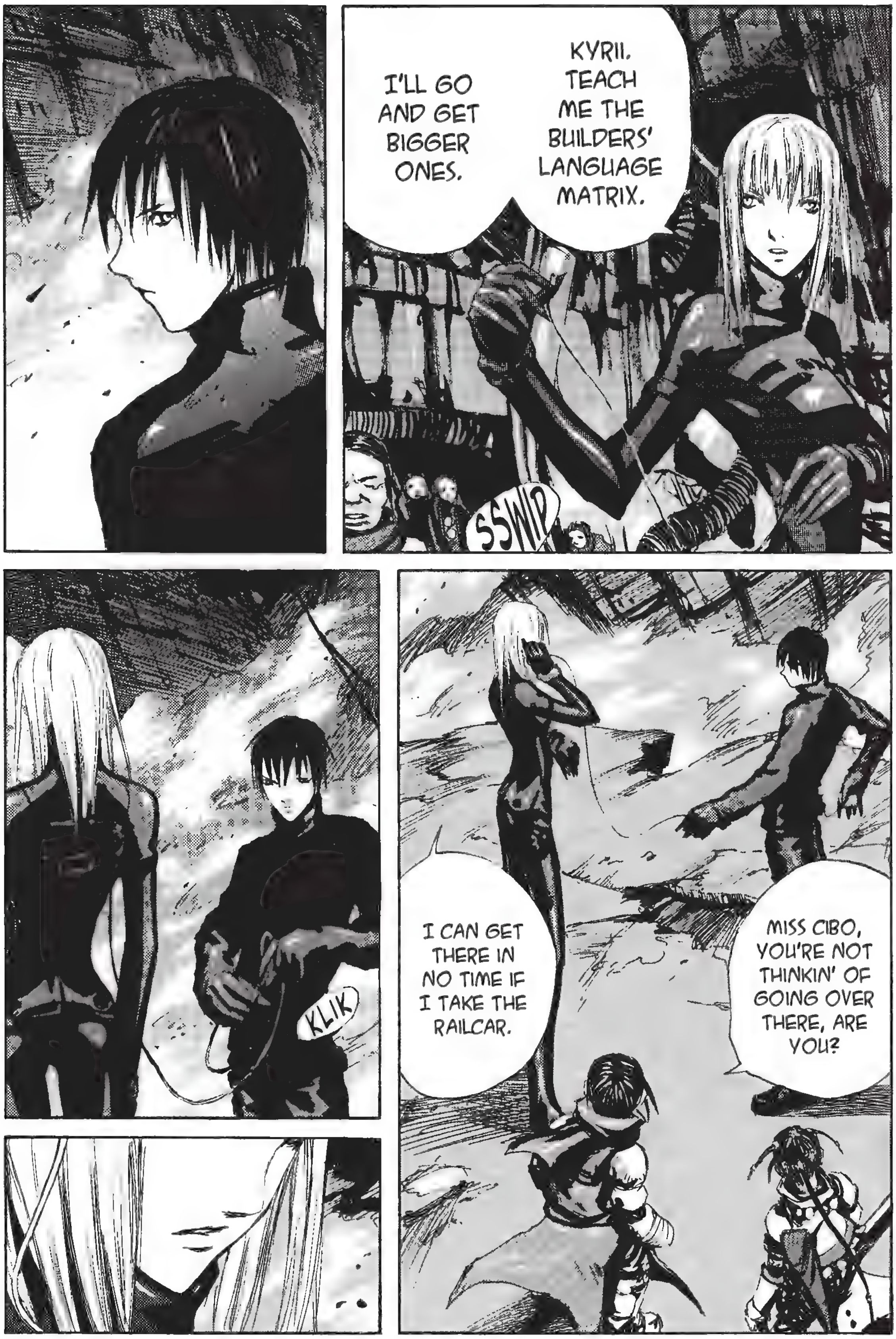

BUT IF WE JUST PRESERVE THEM, MAYBE SOMEDAY THEY CAN BE REVIVED.
ANYWAY, DOING THIS IS IMPORTANT TO US.

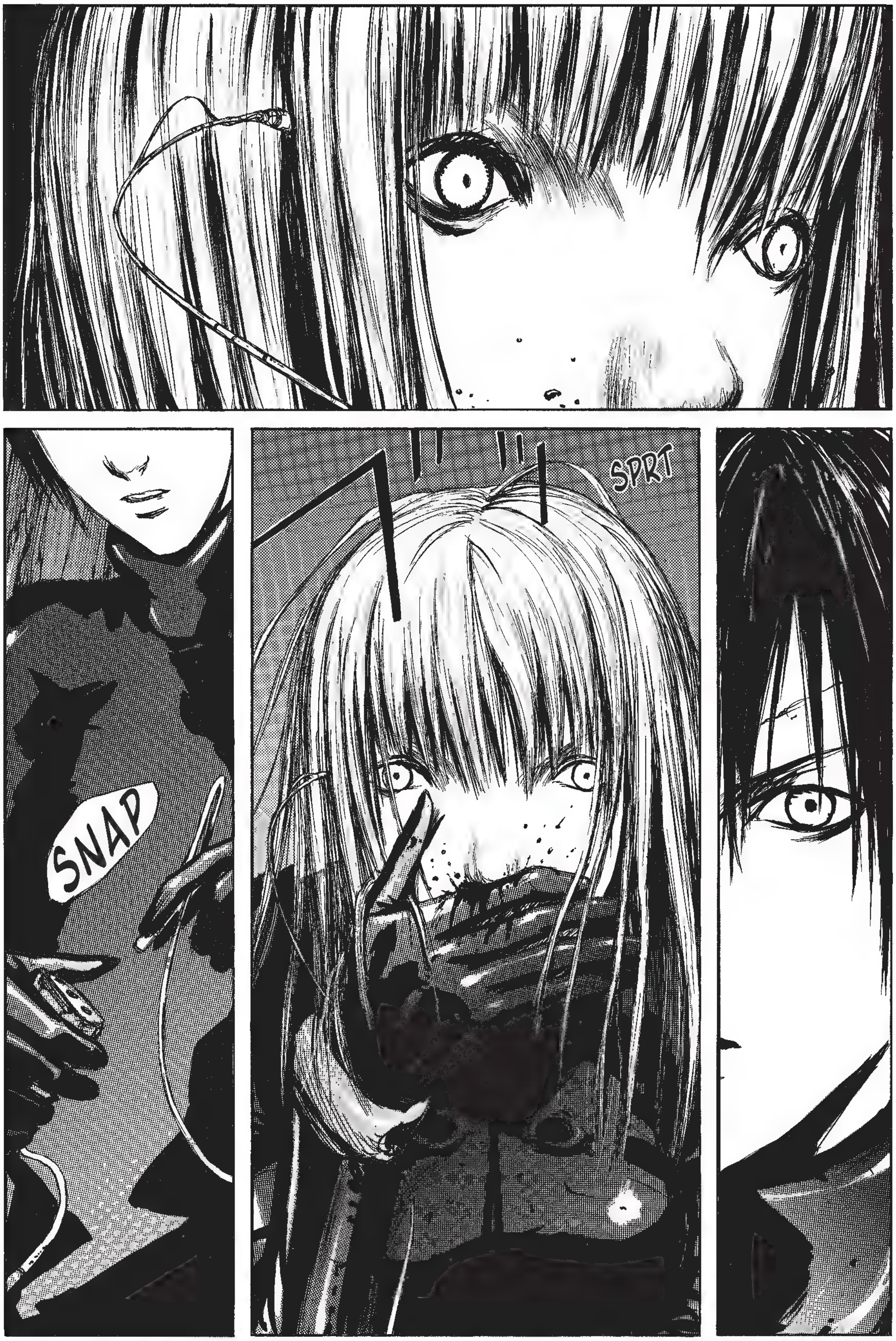


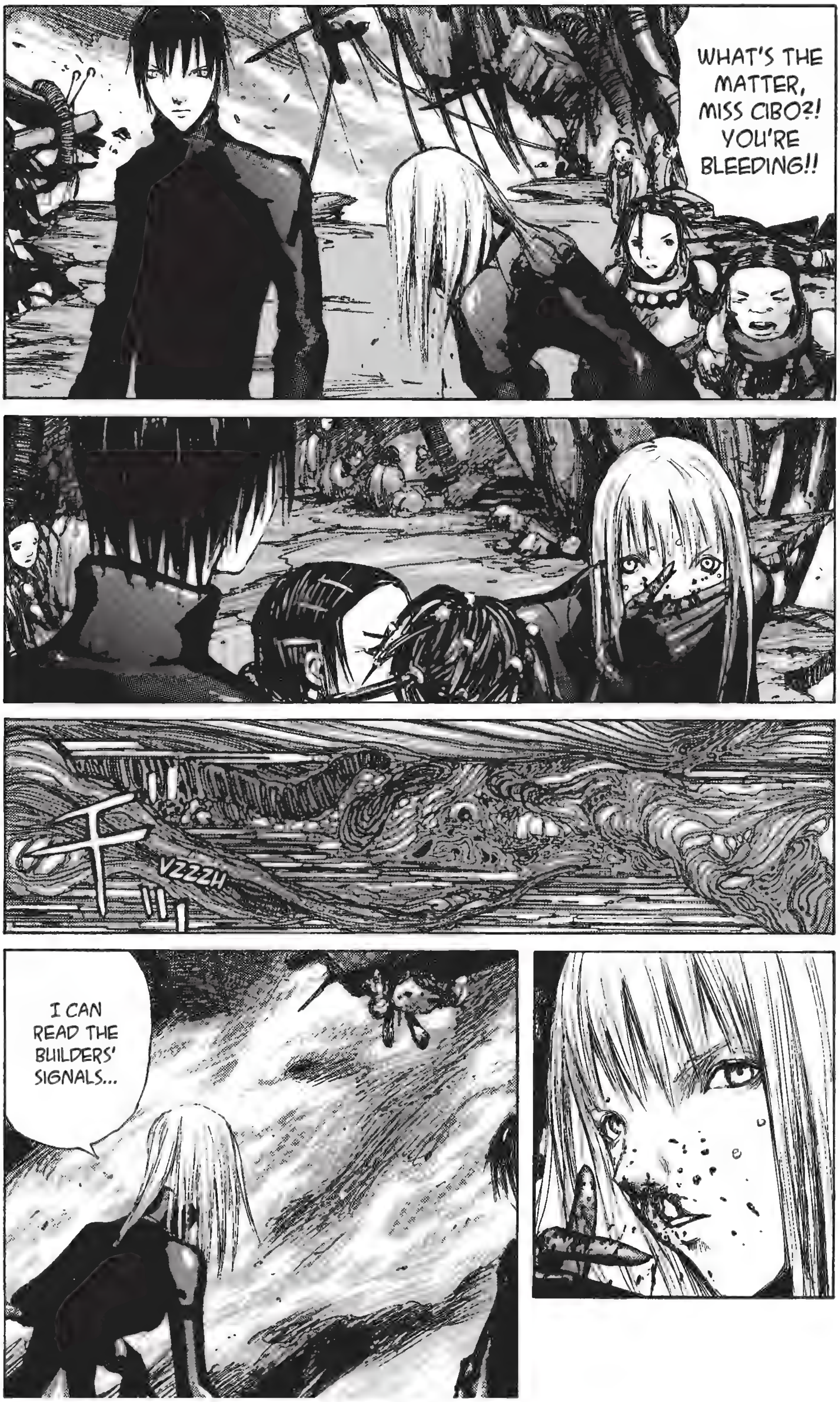

HOW'S IT LOOK THAT WAY?
NO GOOD... IT'S STILL TOO HOT INSIDE. CAN'T GET CLOSE.
WELL?! CAN WE GET TO THE ENTRANCE?!

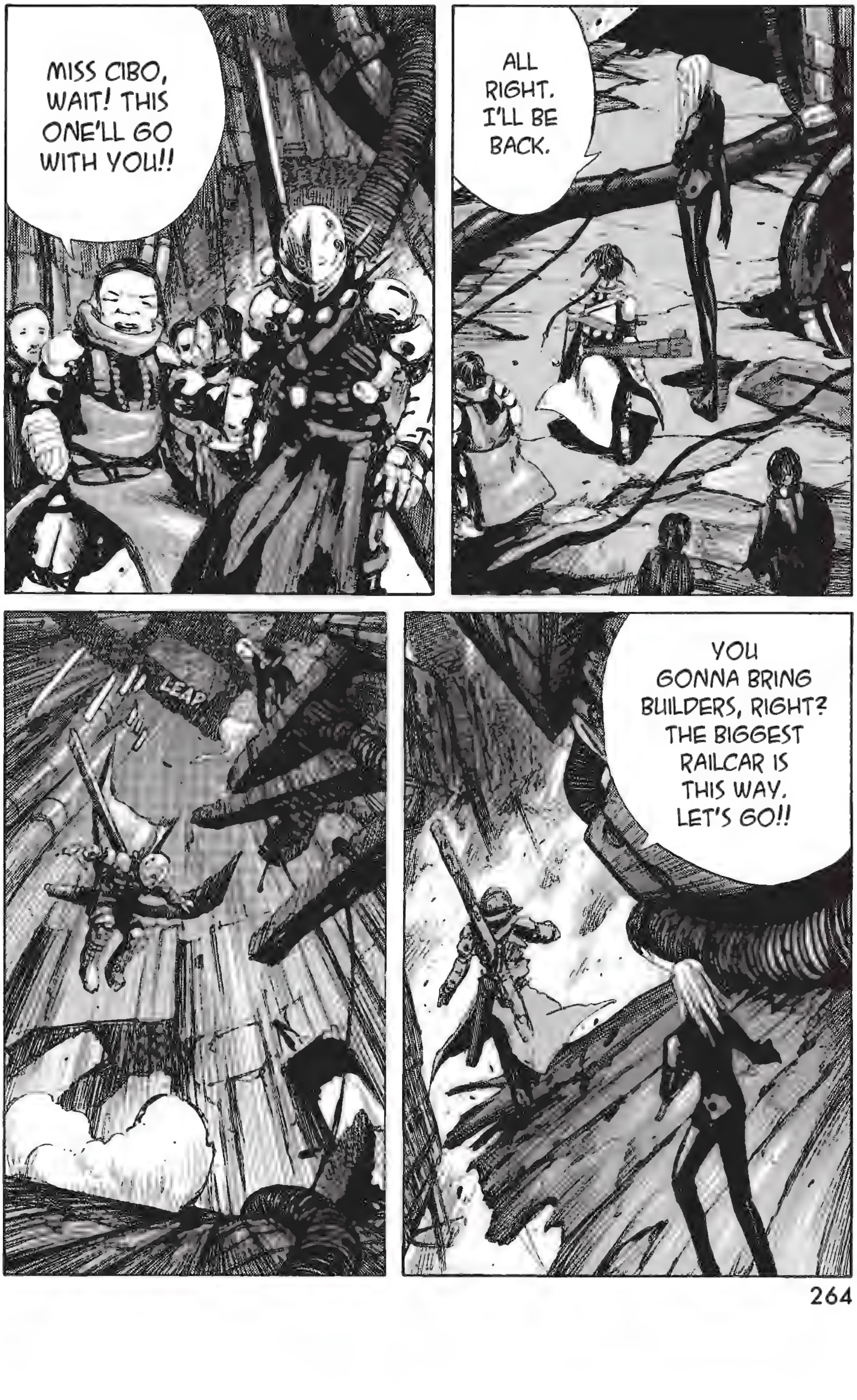

IT'S NOT GONNA WORK, POPS!! ALL THESE FALLEN BUILDINGS ARE BLOCKING THE WAY! THERE'S NO WAY THROUGH!!

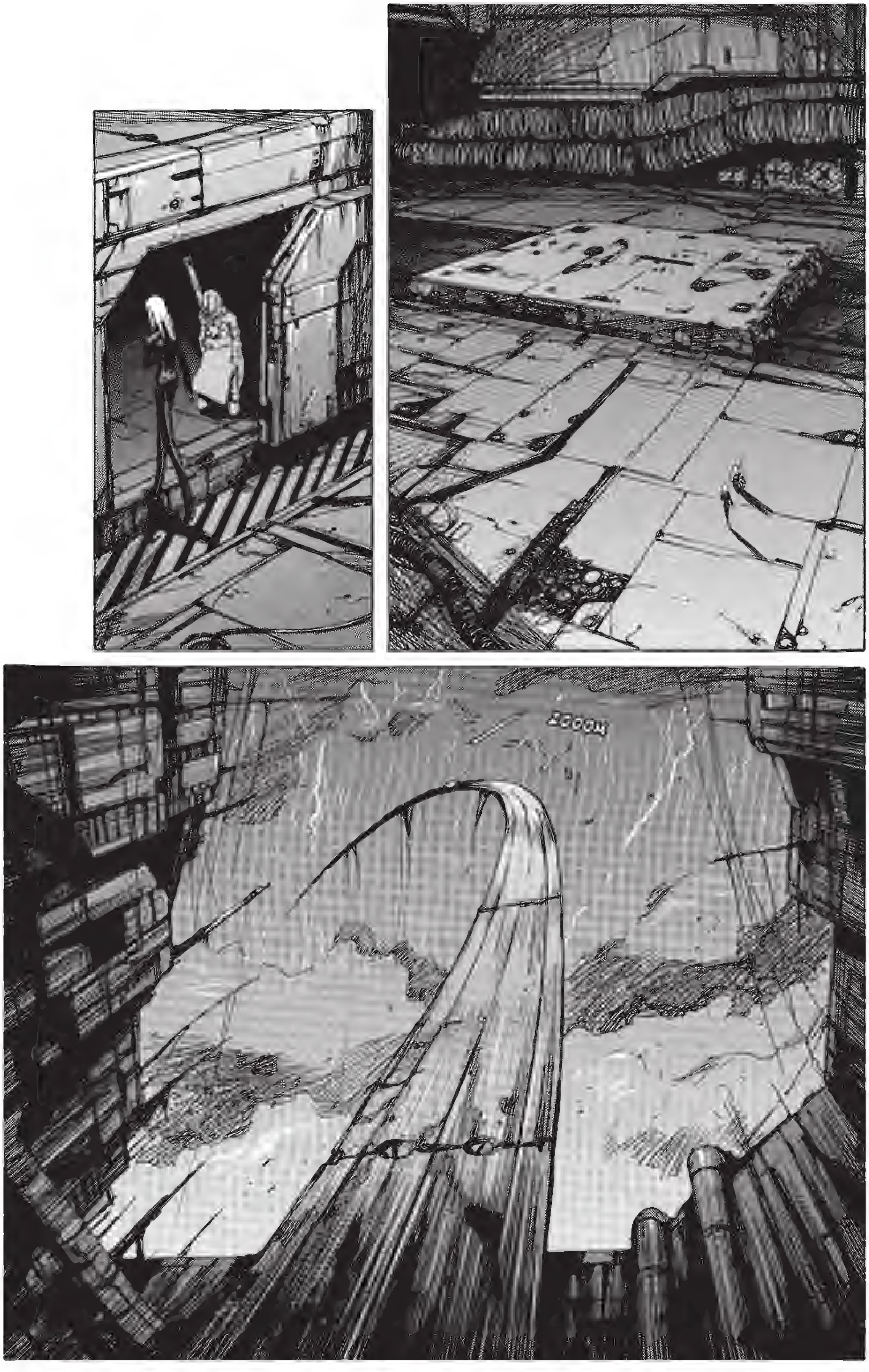

IS THAT THE ONLY ENTRANCE TO TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES?
WE KNOW OF A FEW MORE, BUT EVEN THE NEXT CLOSEST ONE IS SEVERAL KILOMETERS FROM HERE.
WE'VE GOT WOUNDED, WE'RE CARRYING OUR STUFF... WE CAN'T MAKE IT THAT FAR.
KYRII, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET THAT BUILDER TO DO SOMETHING?
IT'S ALREADY STARTED THE DEMOLITION WORK. BUT IT NEEDS ANOTHER 2,160 HOURS BEFORE IT'S DONE.
A BUILDER THAT SIZE CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH...
CAN'T BE HELPED...

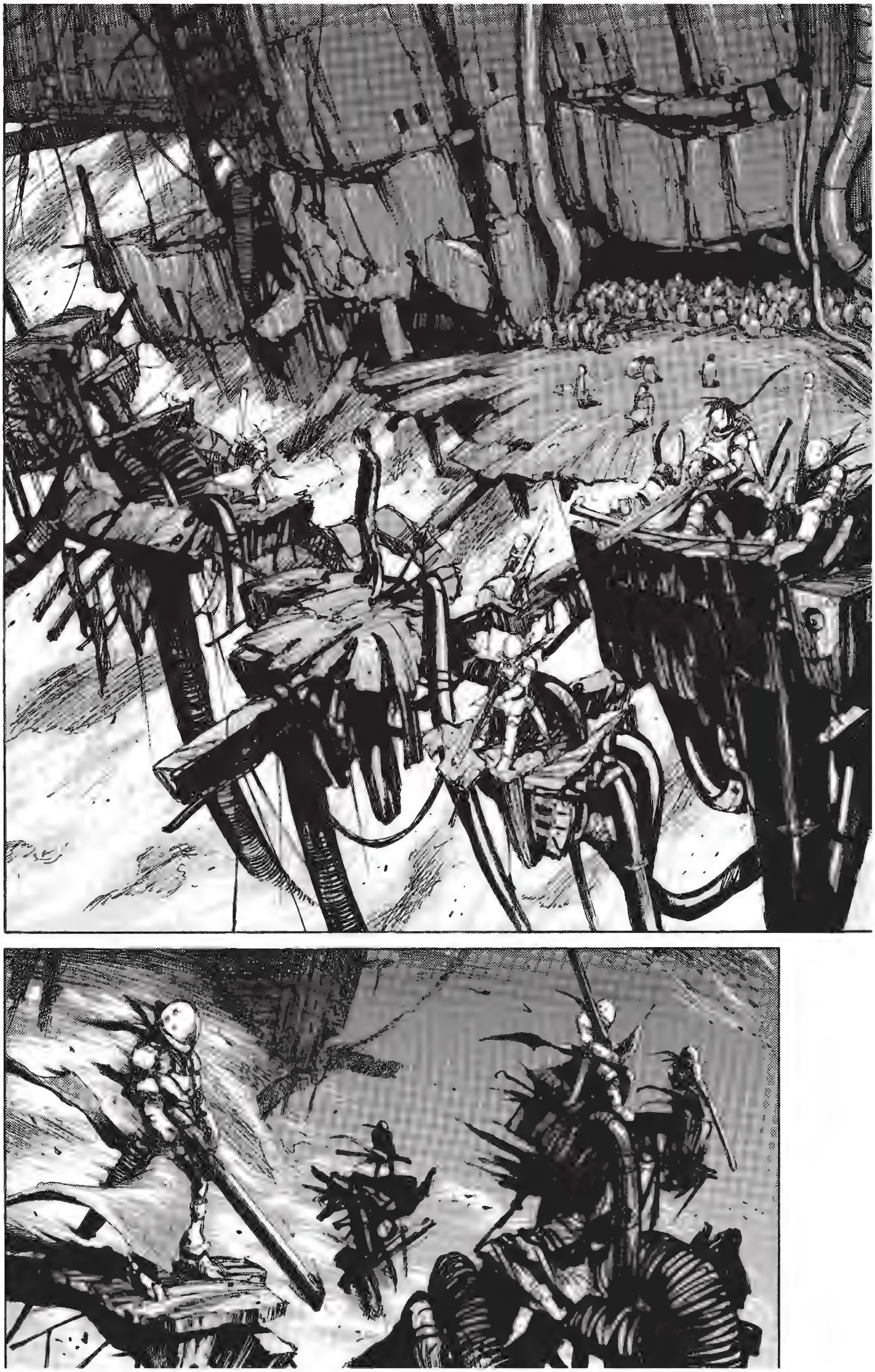

KYRII. TEACH ME THE BUILDERS' LANGUAGE MATRIX.
I'LL GO AND GET BIGGER ONES.
SSWIP
MISS CIBO, YOU'RE NOT THINKIN' OF GOING OVER THERE, ARE YOU?
I CAN GET THERE IN NO TIME IF I TAKE THE RAILCAR.
KLIK

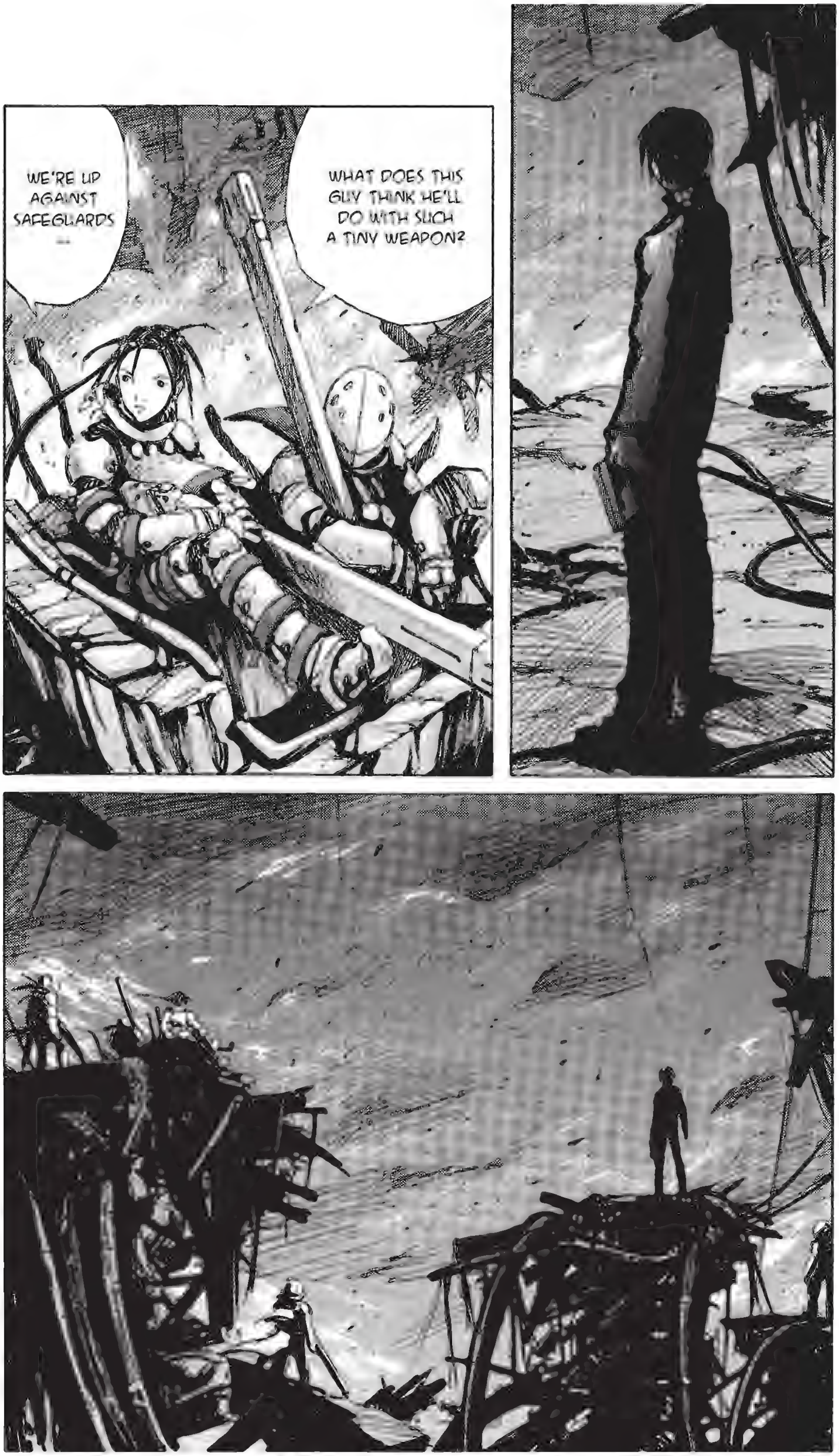

SPRT
SNAP

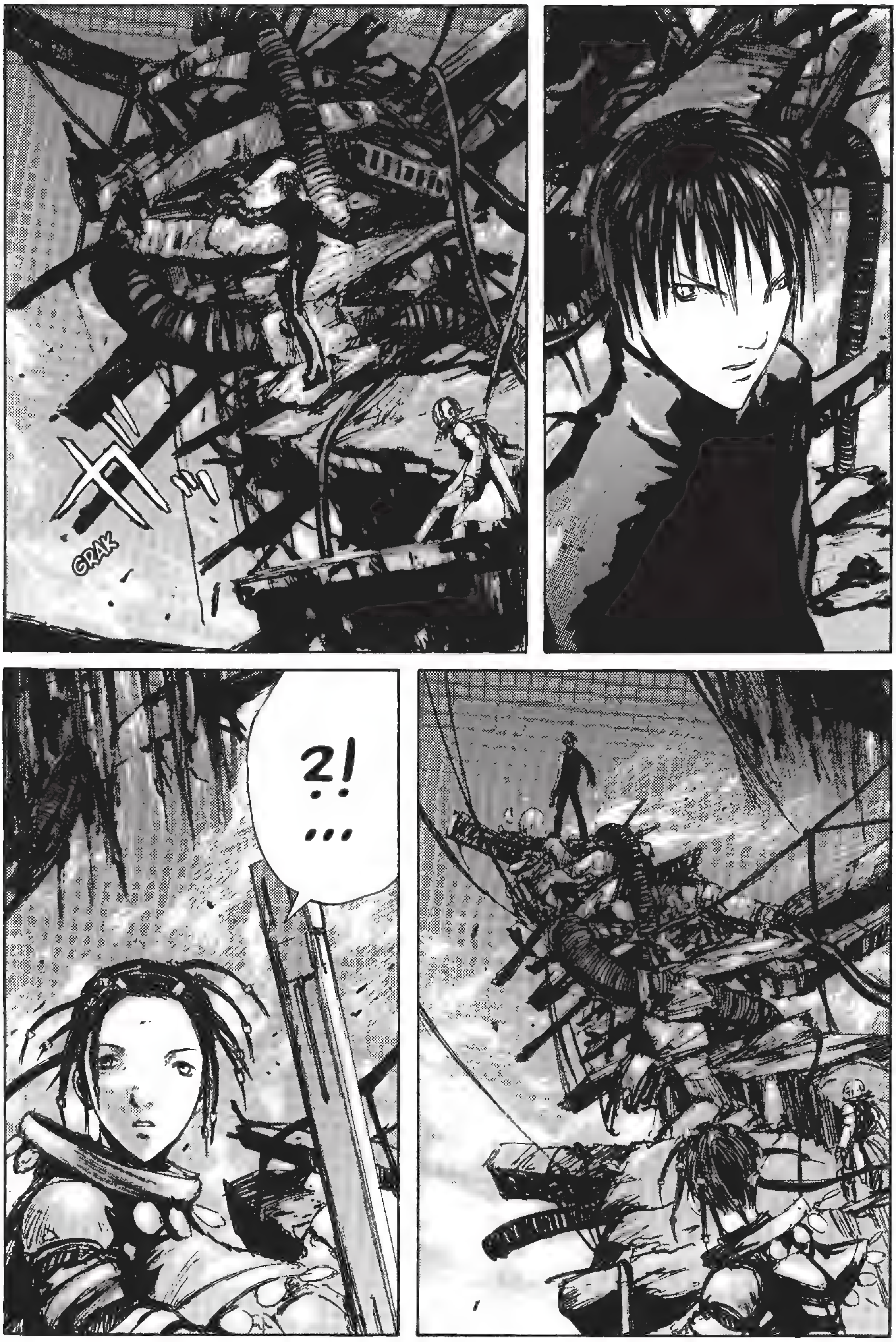

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MISS CIBO?! YOU'RE BLEEDING!!
VZZZH
I CAN READ THE BUILDERS' SIGNALS...

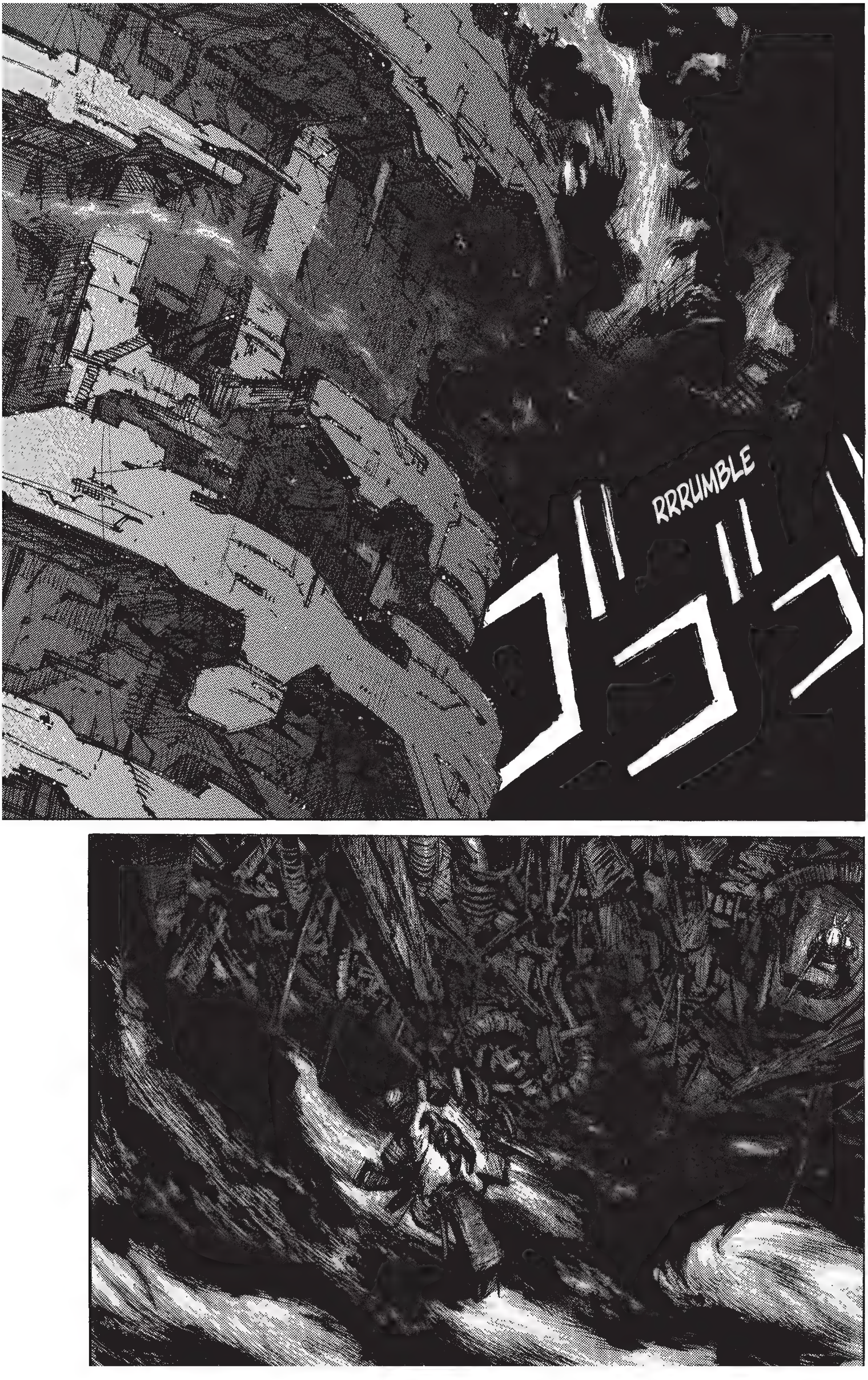

ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE BACK.
MISS CIBO, WAIT! THIS ONE'LL GO WITH YOU!!
YOU GONNA BRING BUILDERS, RIGHT? THE BIGGEST RAILCAR IS THIS WAY. LET'S GO!!
LEAP

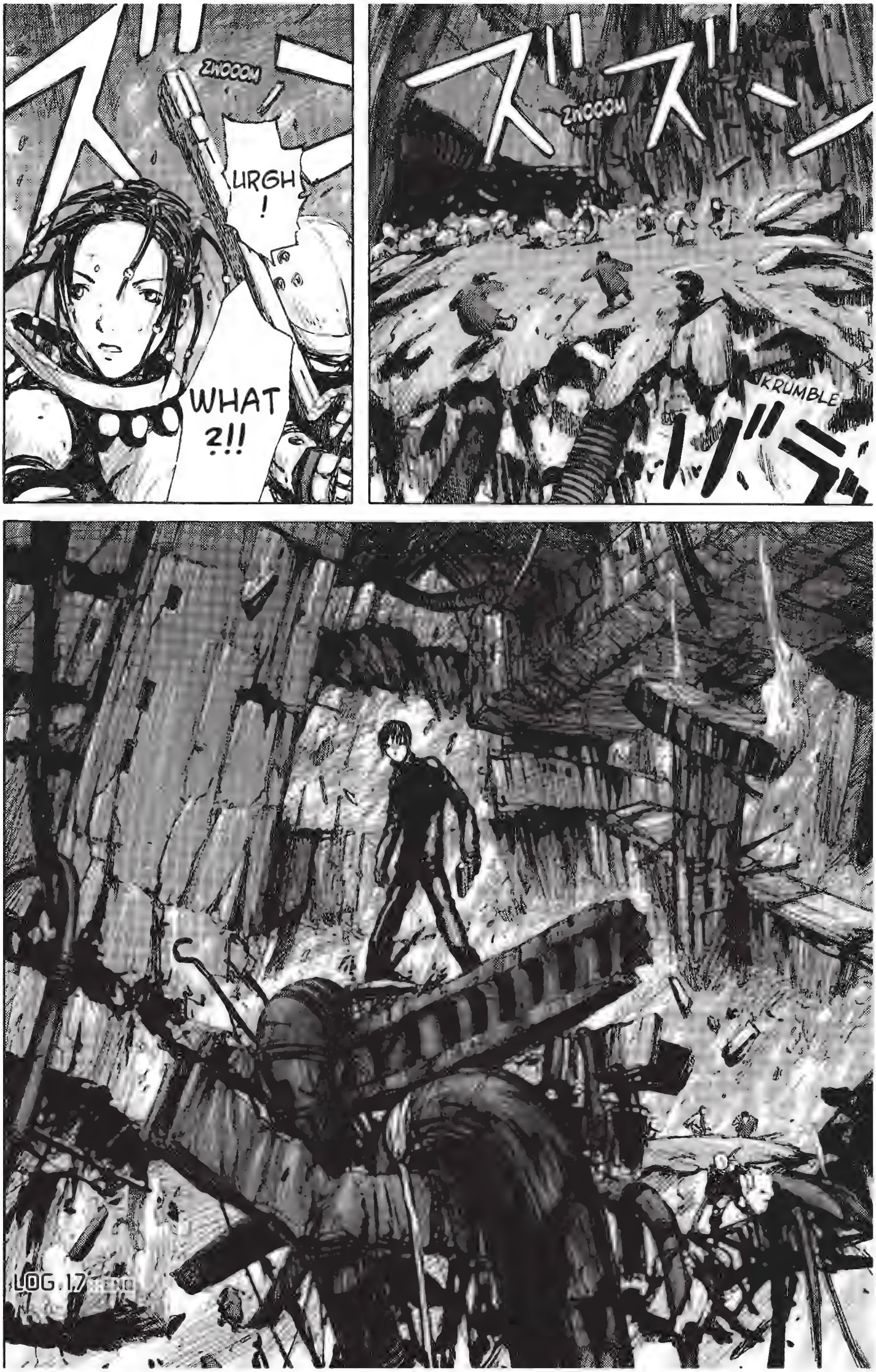

2500m

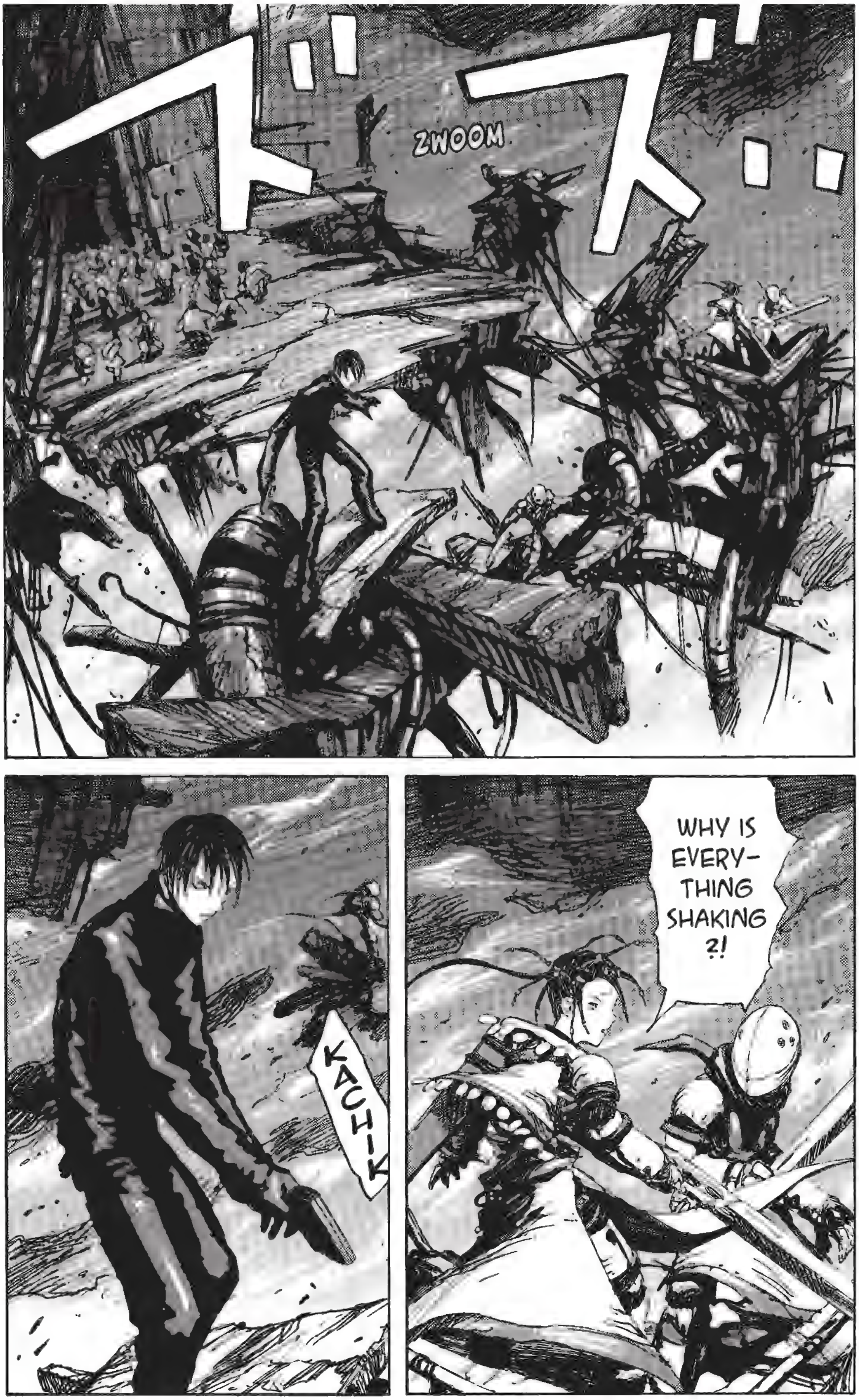


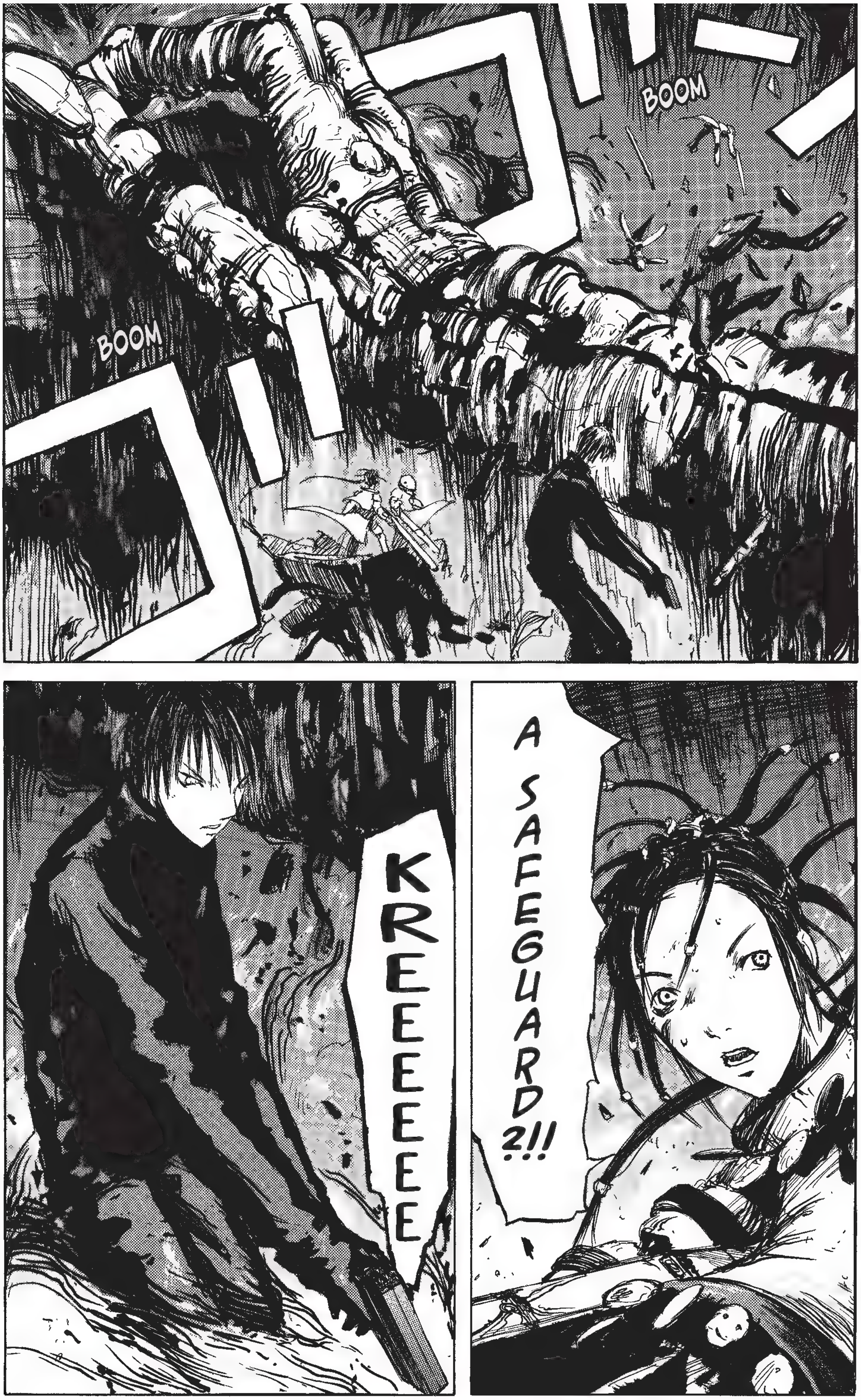

WHAT DOES THIS GUY THINK HE'LL DO WITH SUCH A TINY WEAPON?
WE'RE UP AGAINST SAFEGUARDS ...


GRAK
?!
...


ゴゴゴ
RRRUMBLE

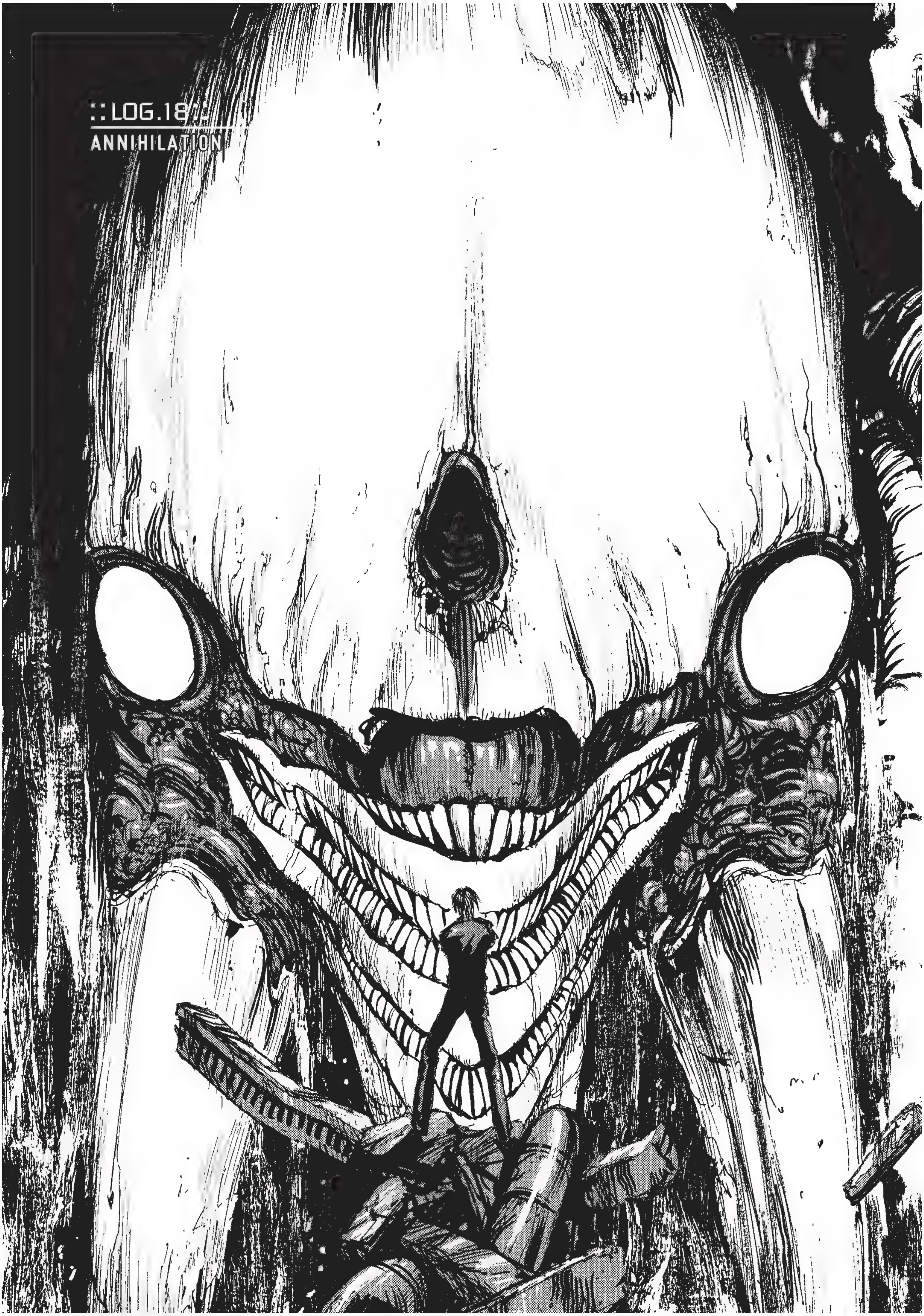

ZWOOOM
KRUMBLE
ZWOOOM
URGH!
WHAT?!!
LOG.17 END

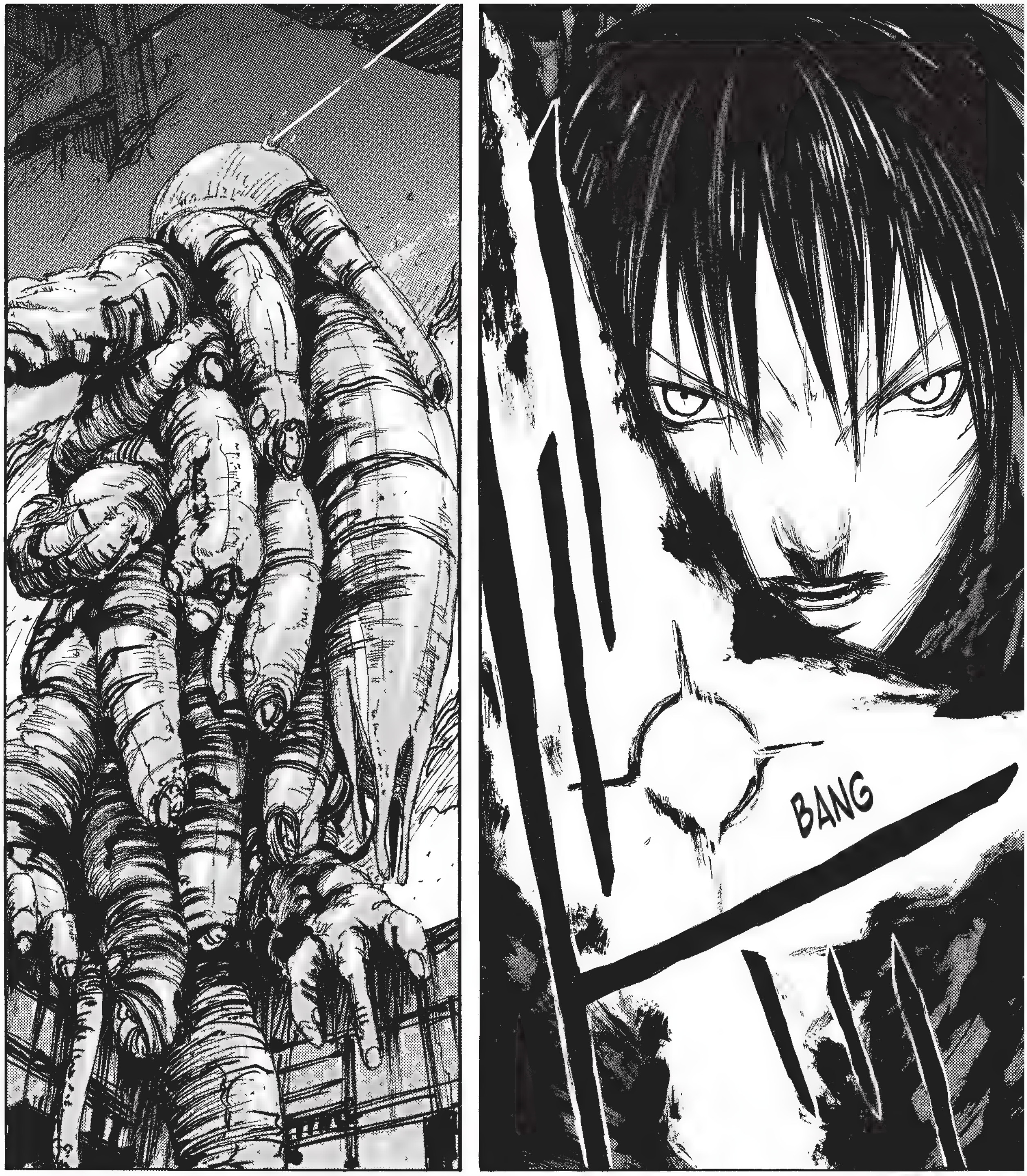

ズ゛ズ゛
ZWOOM
WHY IS EVERYTHING SHAKING?!
KACHIK

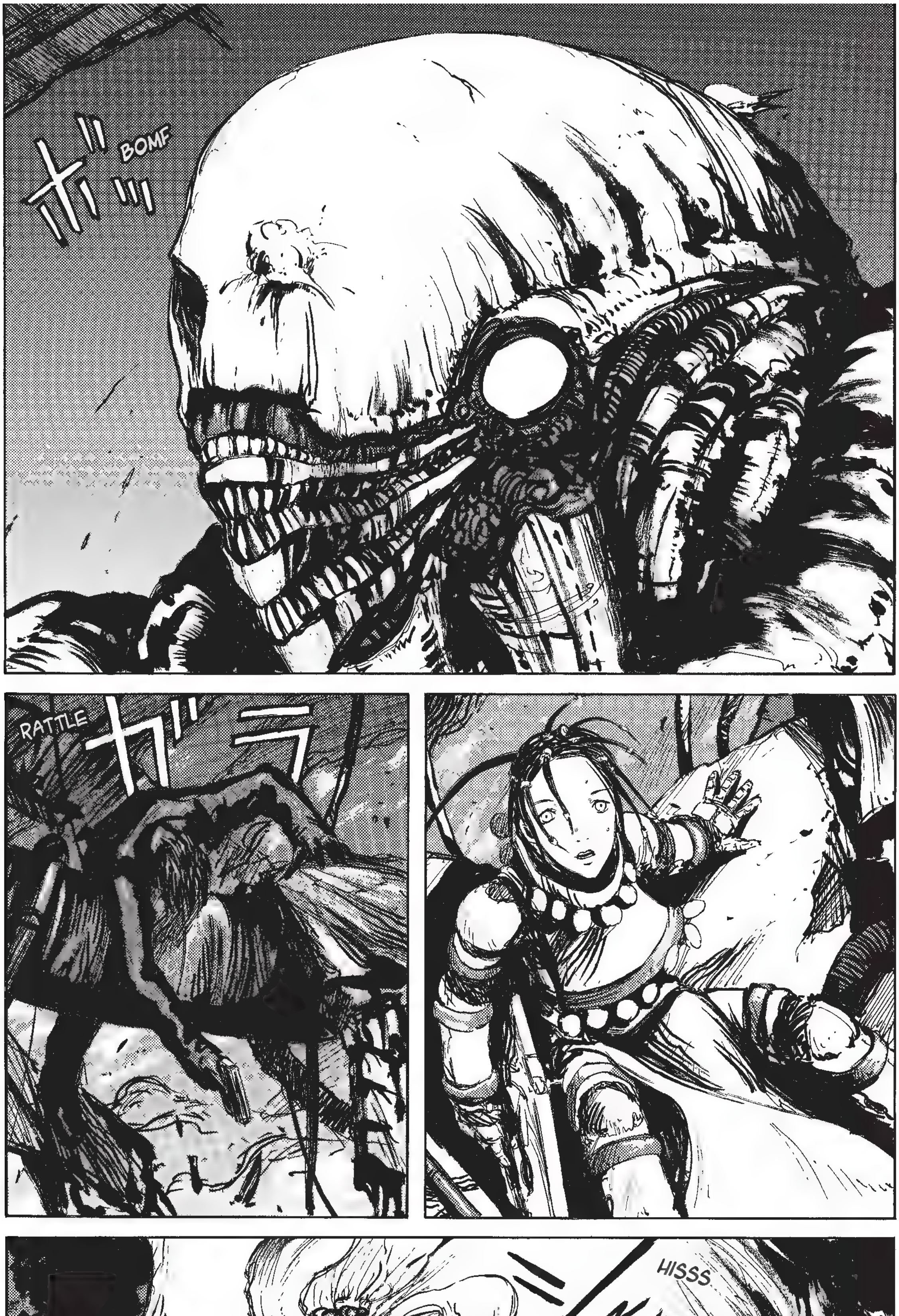

BOOM
BOOM
A SAFEGUARD?!!
KREEEEEEEE

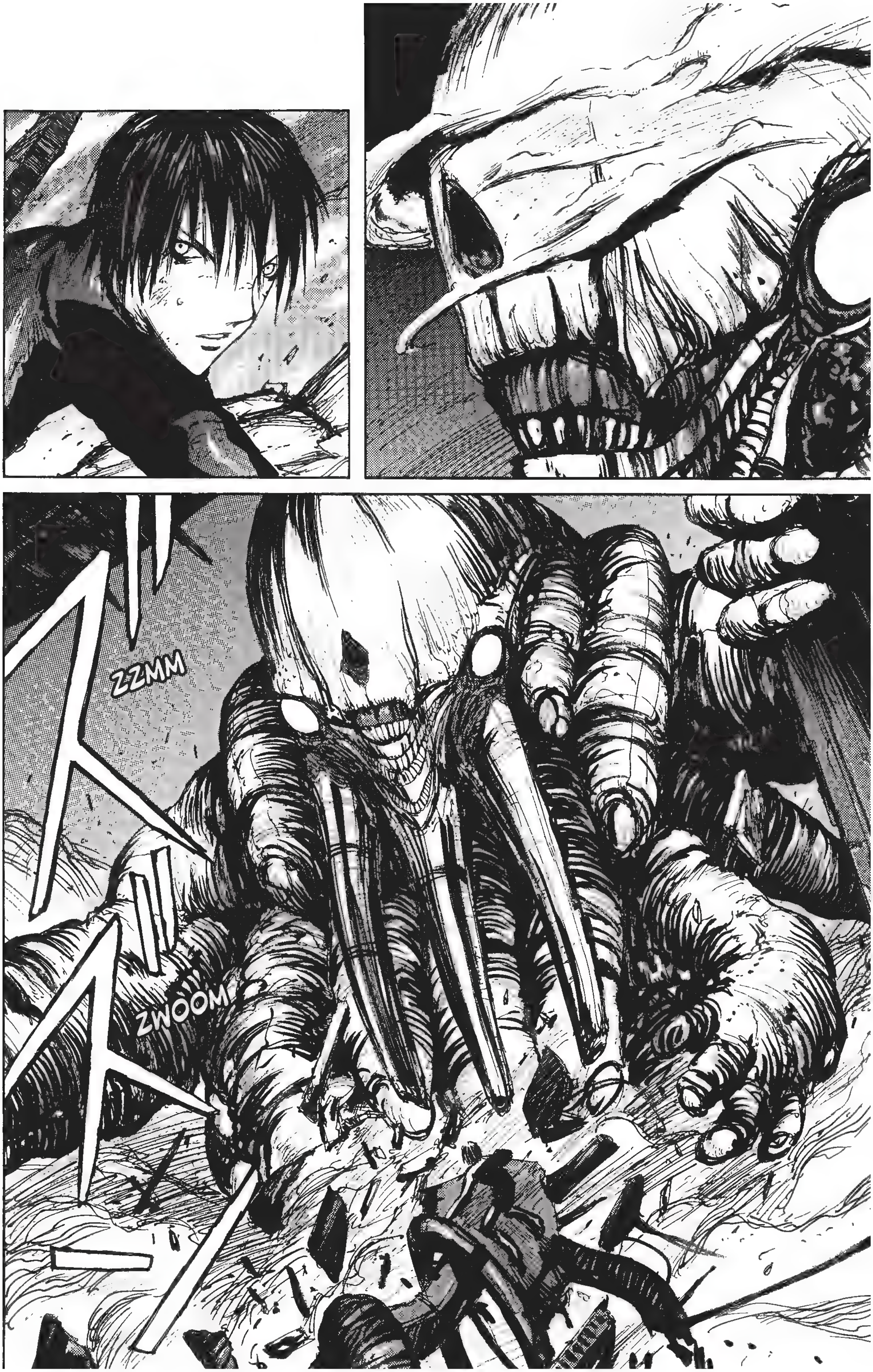
::LOG.18::

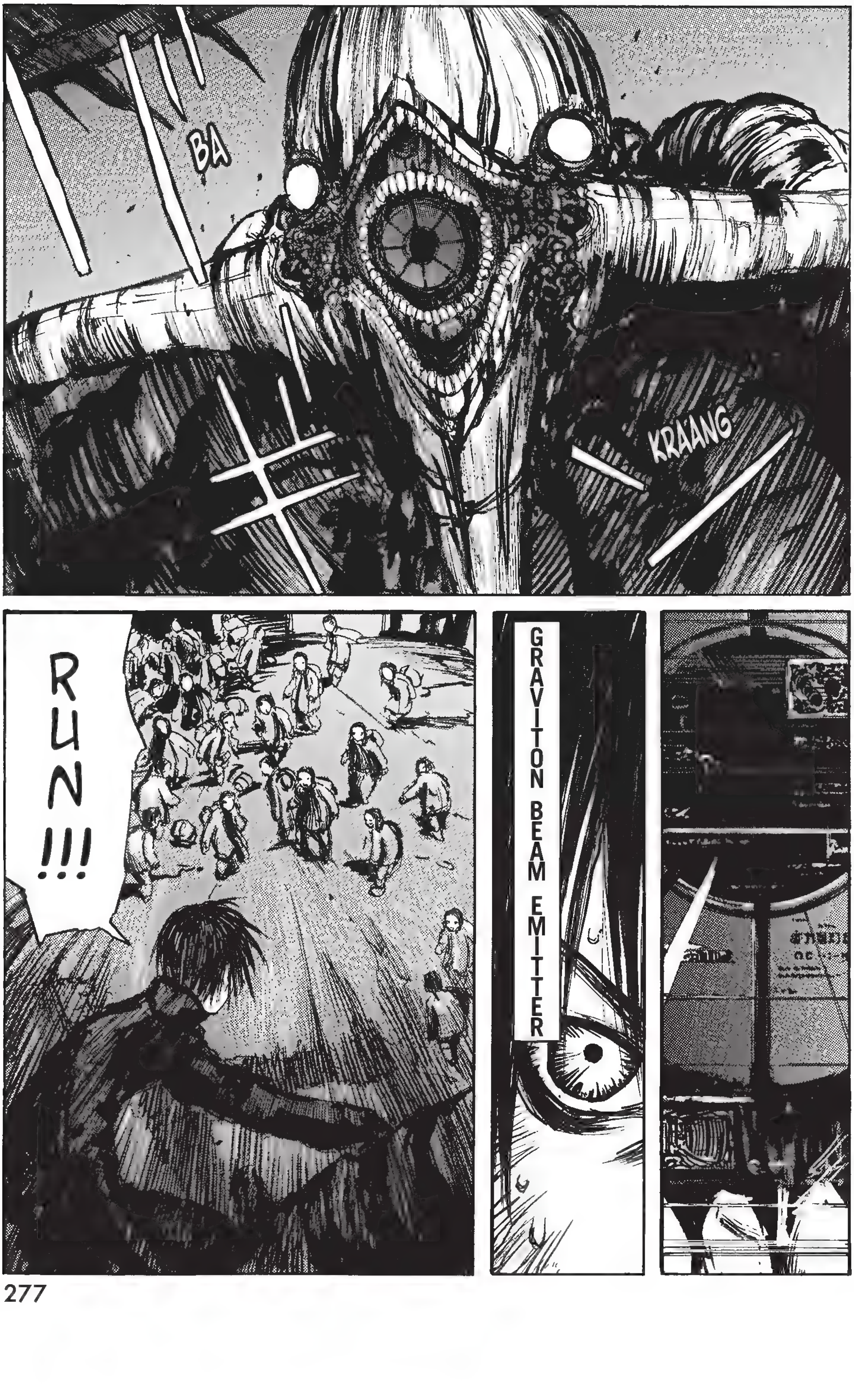
ANNIHILATION

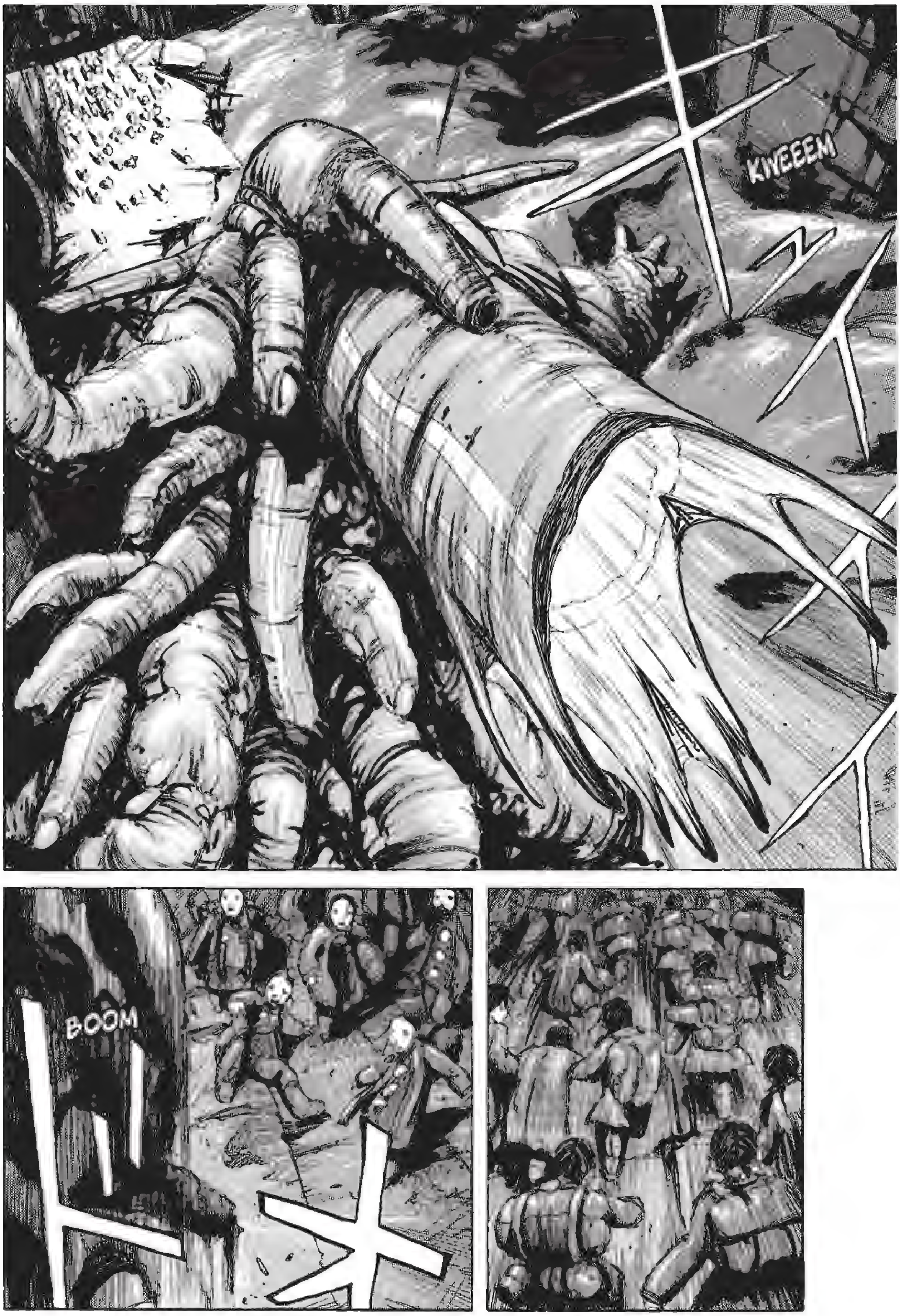


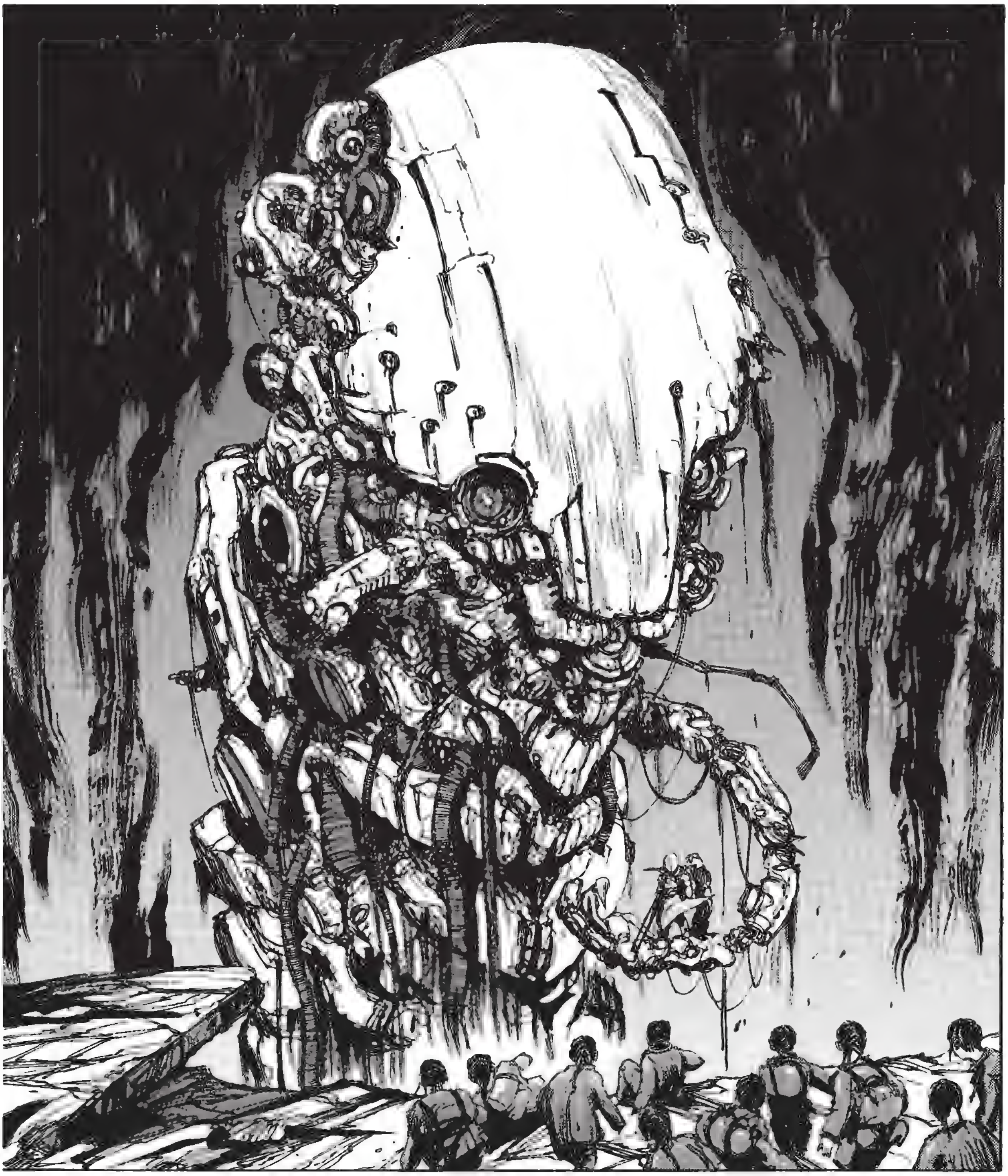

BANG

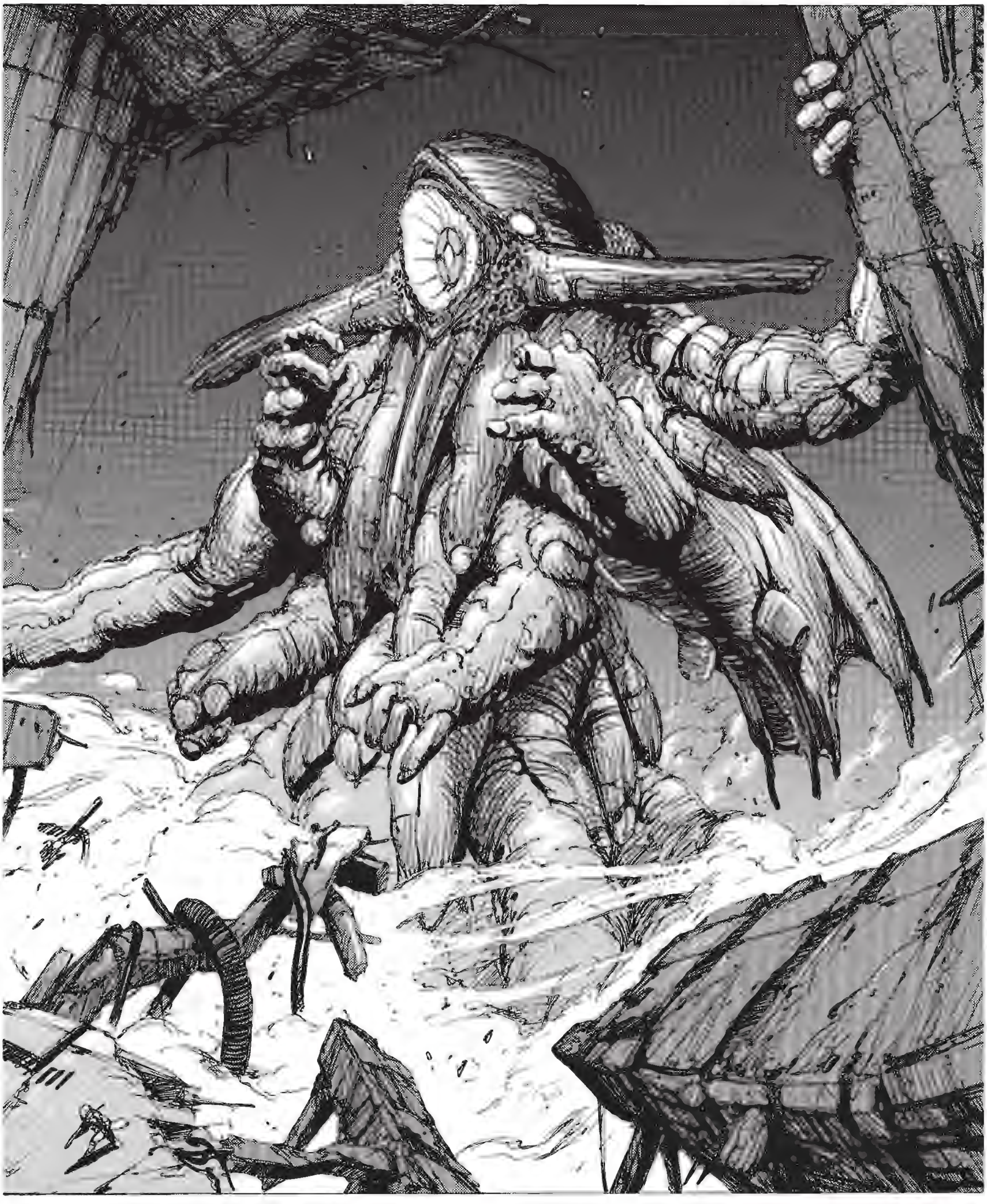

ボッ
BOMF
ガラ
RATTLE
シュゥ
HISSS

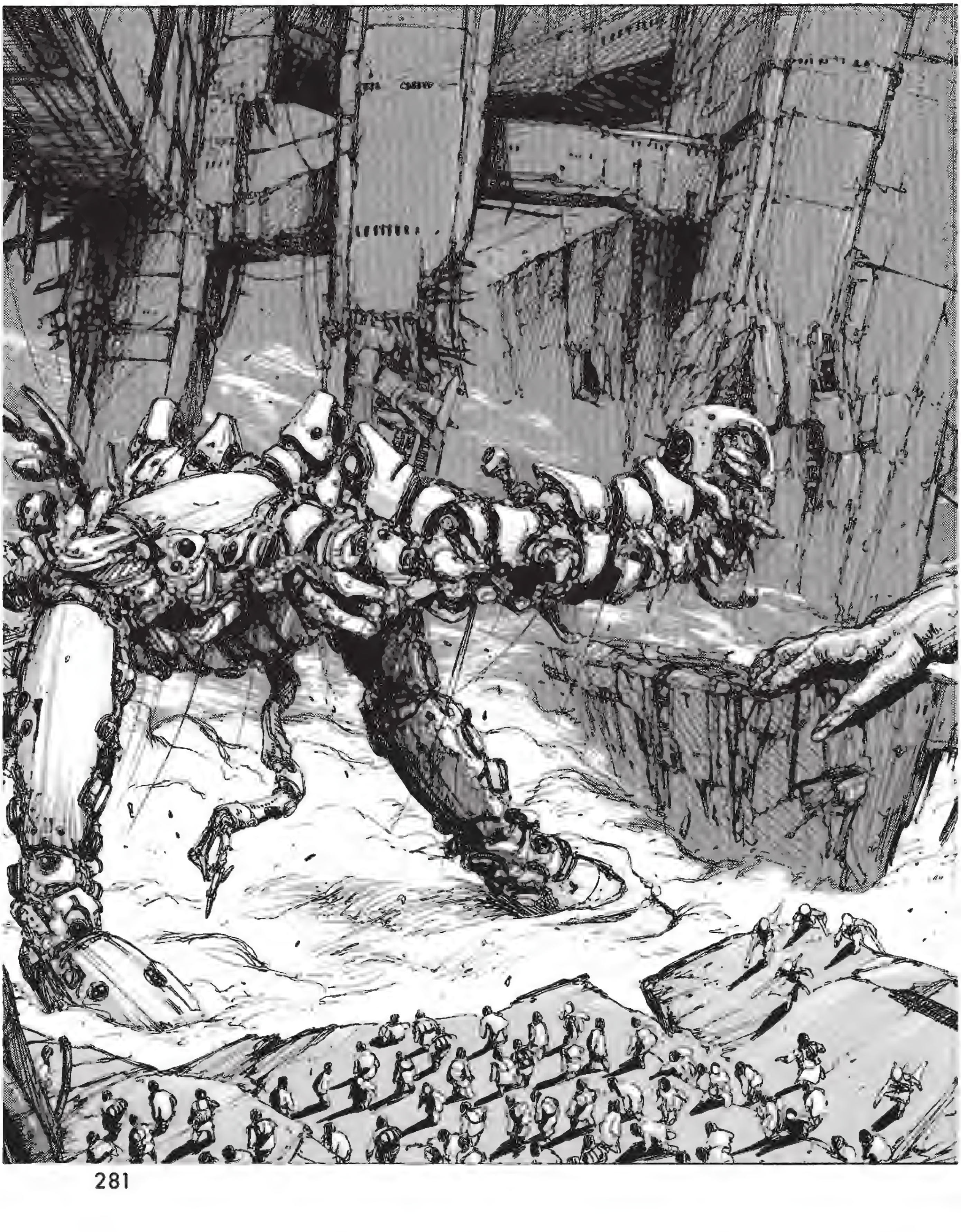

ZZMM
ZWOOM

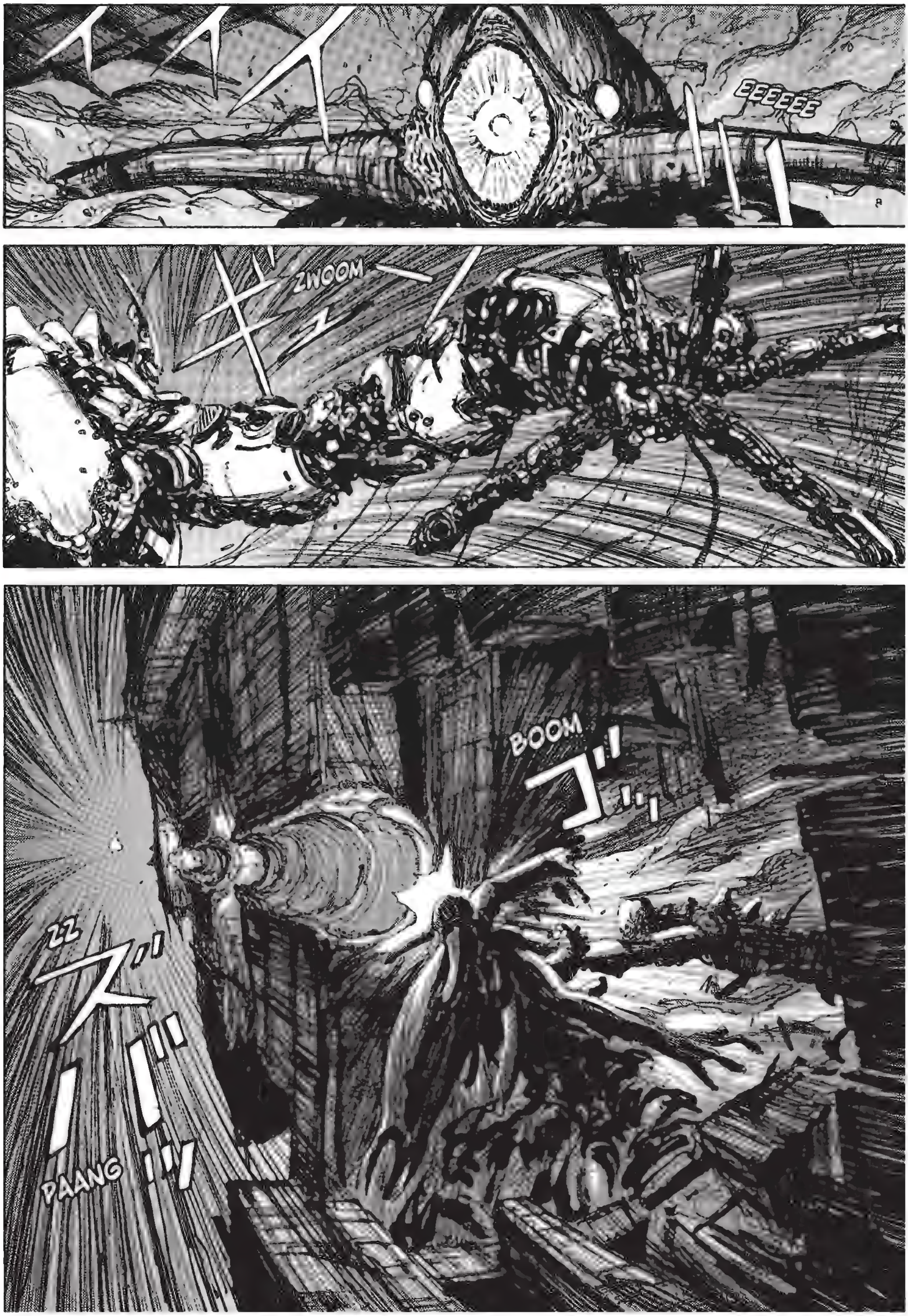

KRAANG
BA
GRAVITON BEAM EMITTER
RUN!!!

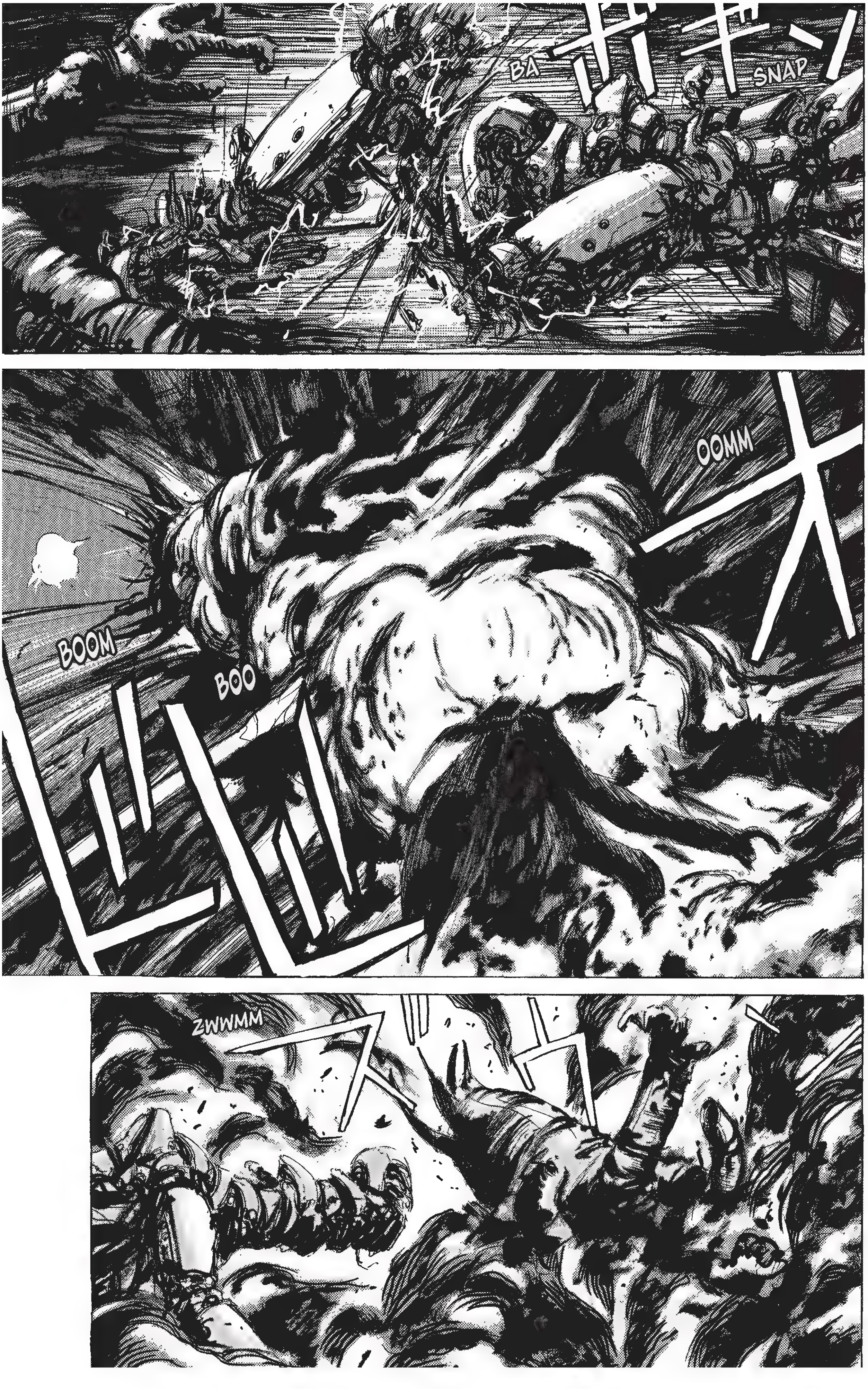

KWEEEM
BOOM

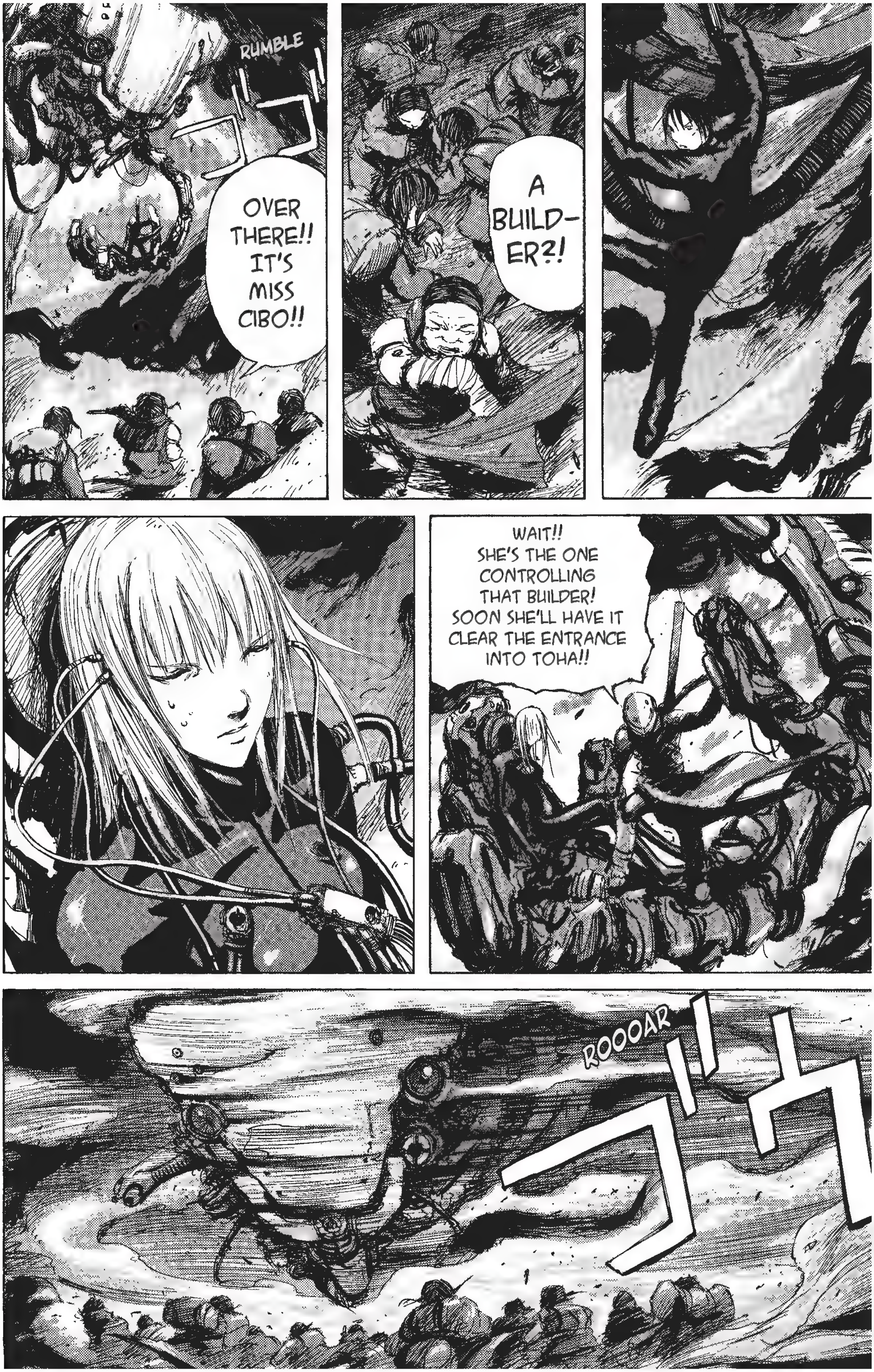


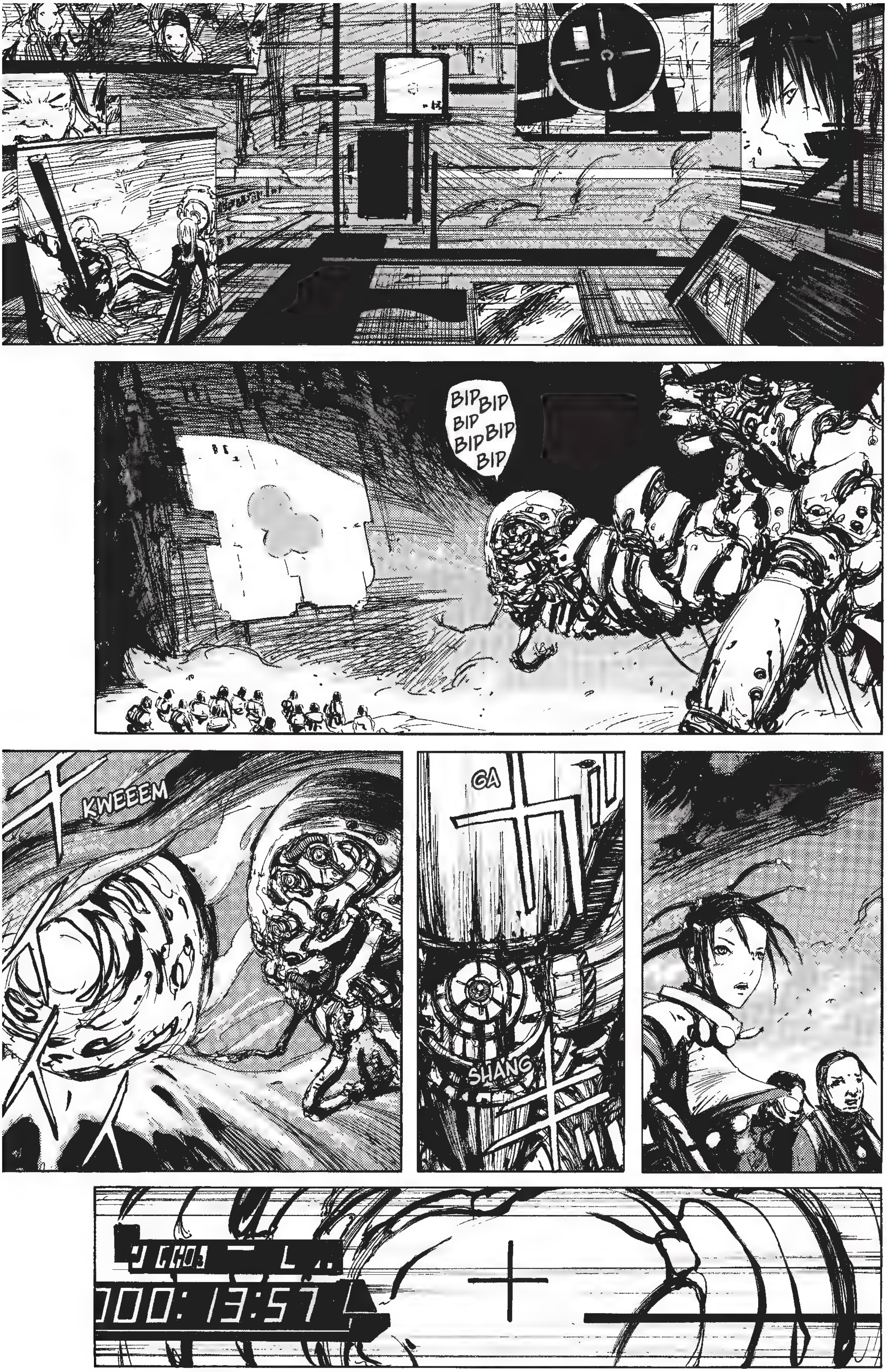


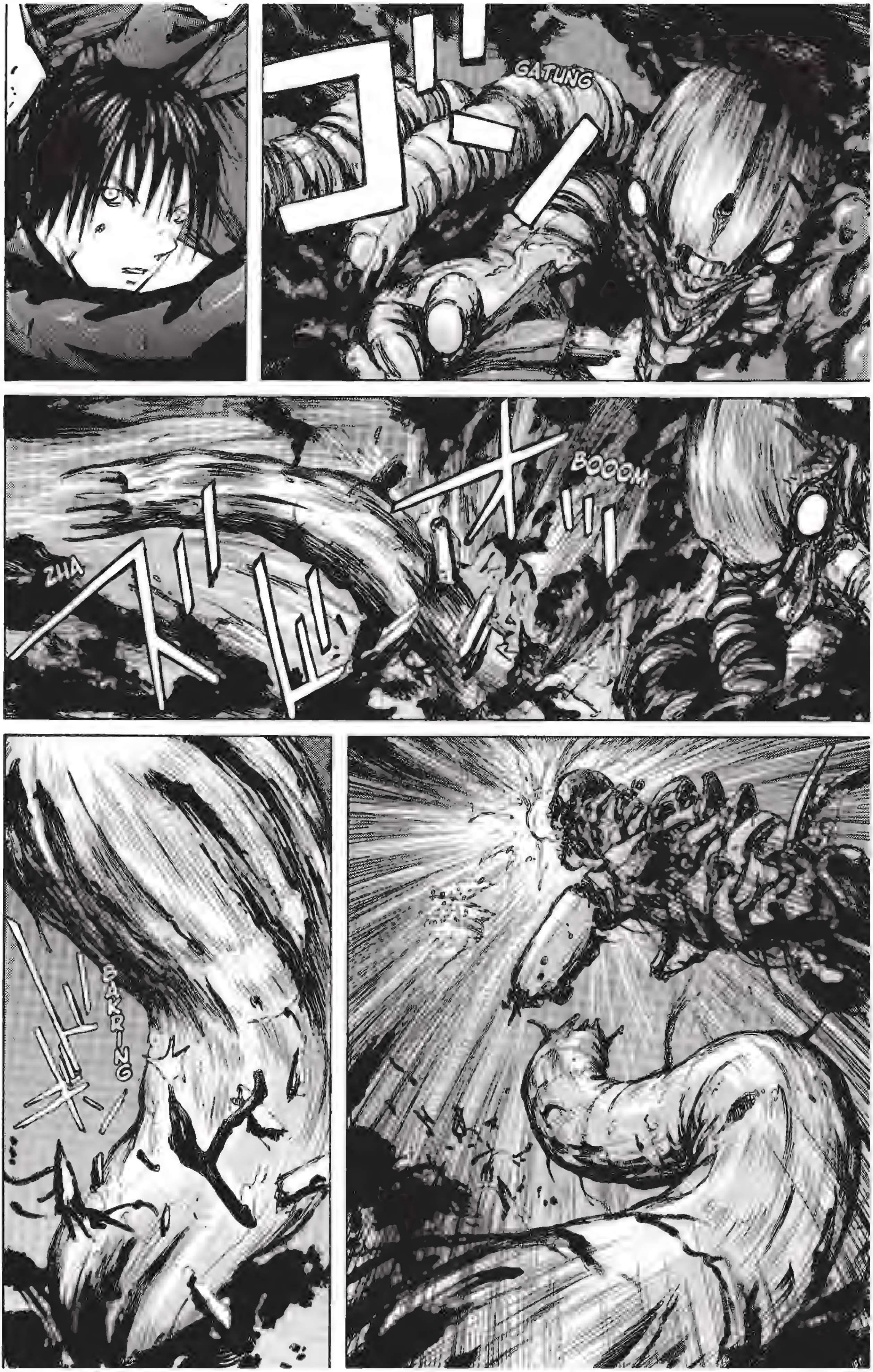


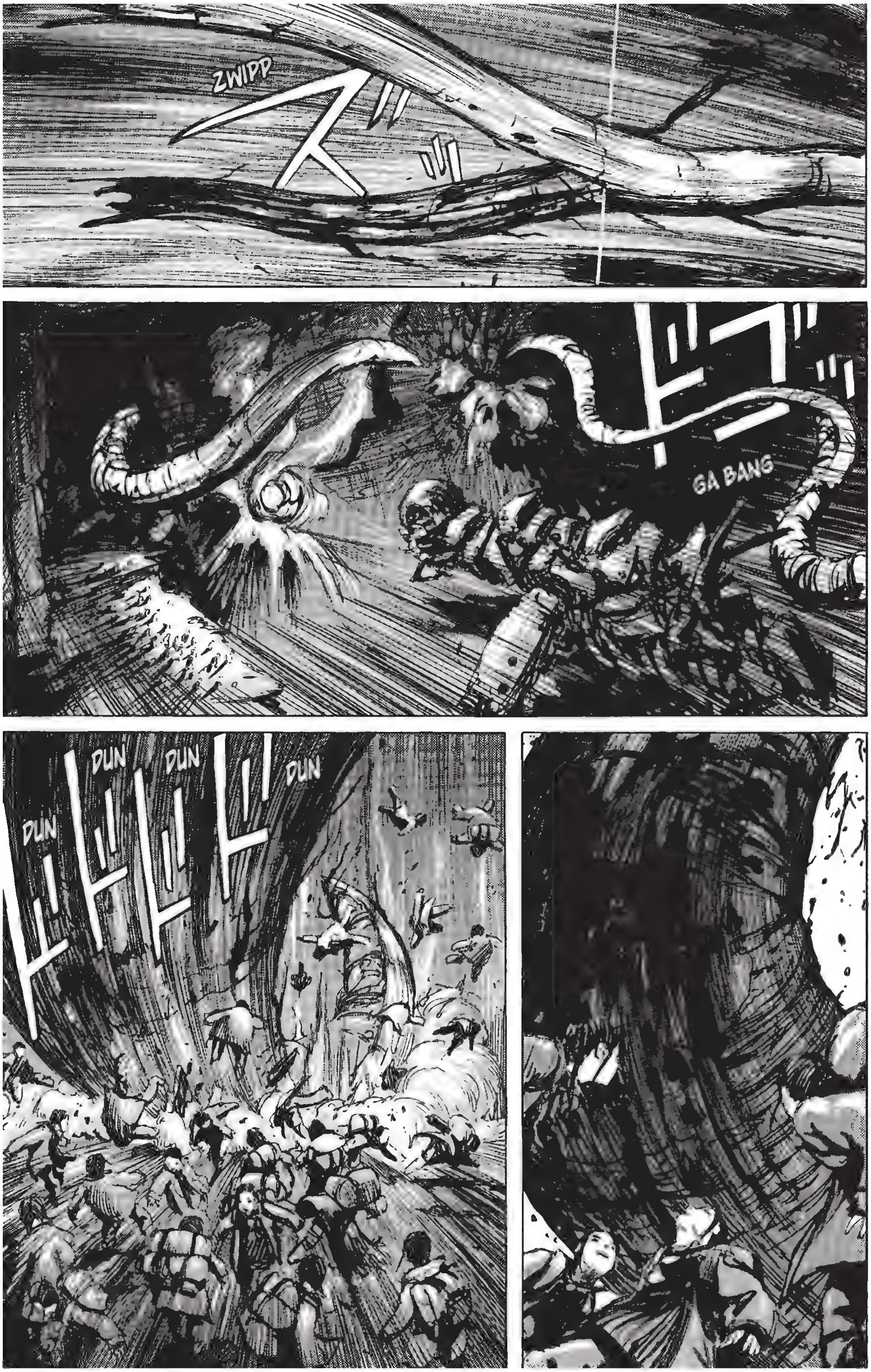

EEEEEE
ZWOOM
BOOM
ZZ
PAANG

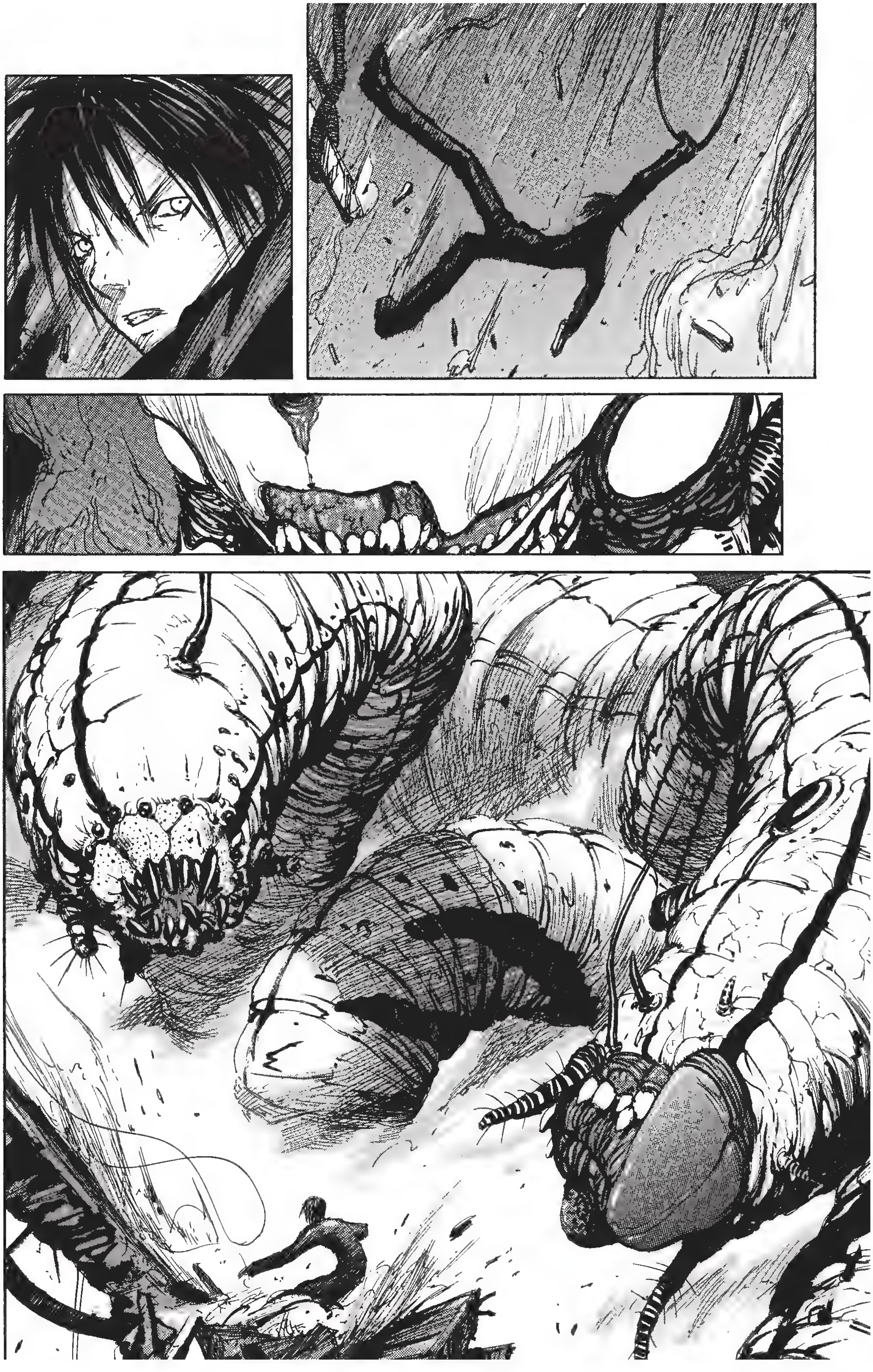

SNAP
BA
OOMM
BOO
BOOM
ZWWMM

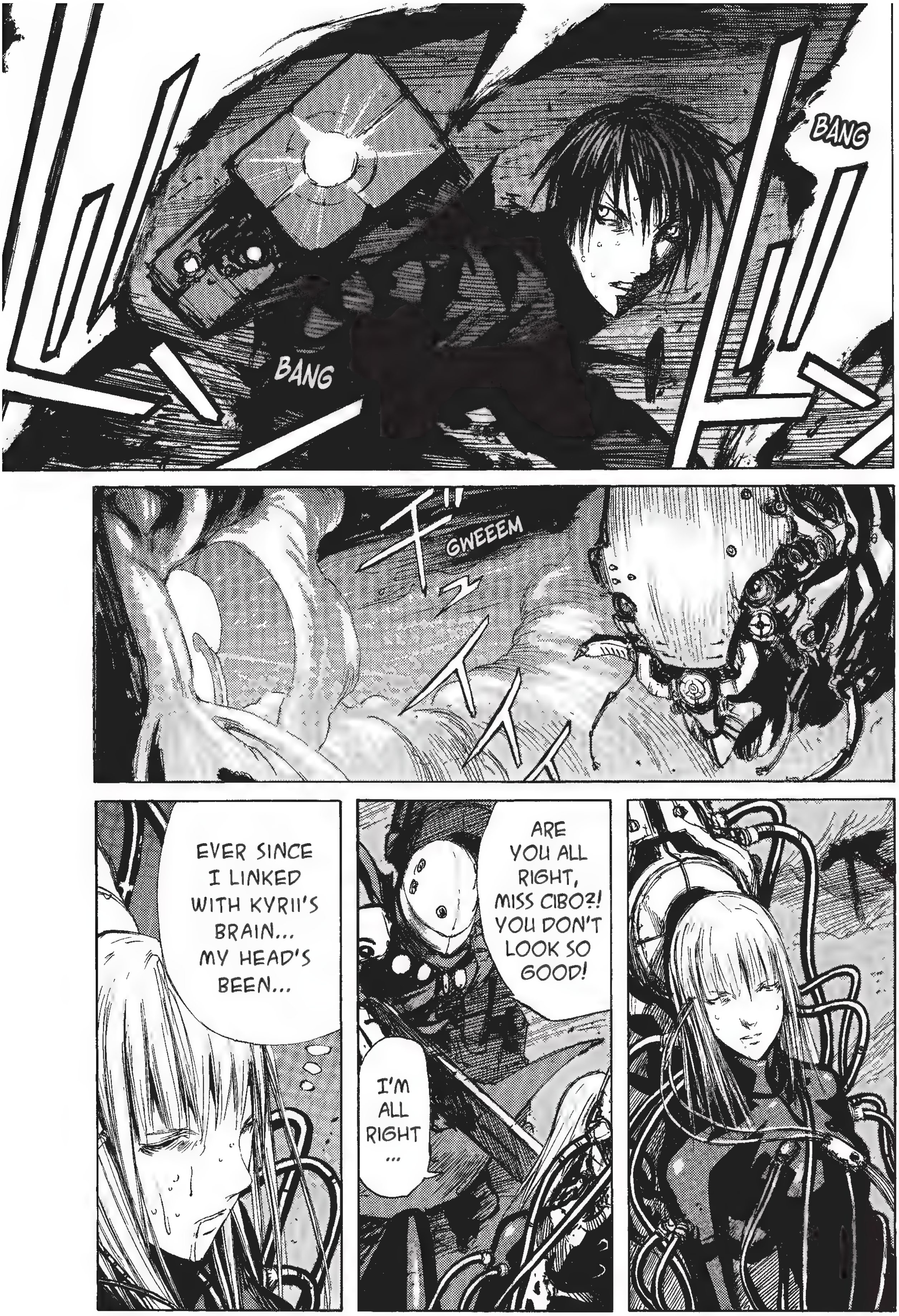

RUMBLE
A BUILDER?!
OVER THERE!! IT'S MISS CIBO!!
WAIT!! SHE'S THE ONE CONTROLLING THAT BUILDER! SOON SHE'LL HAVE IT CLEAR THE ENTRANCE INTO TOHA!!
ROOOAR

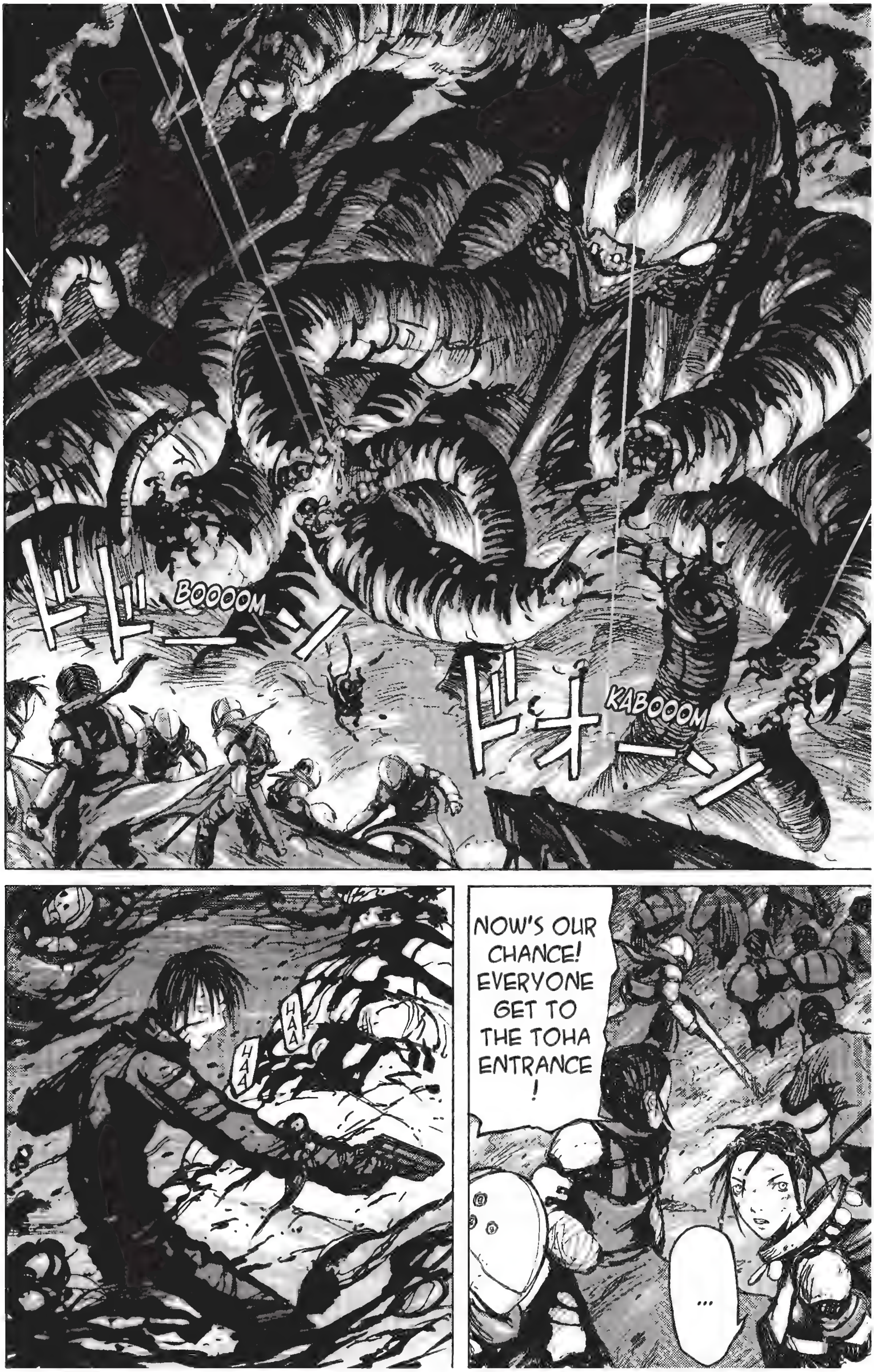

BIP BIP
BIP BIP BIP
BIP
KWEEEM
GA
SHANG
000: 13:57

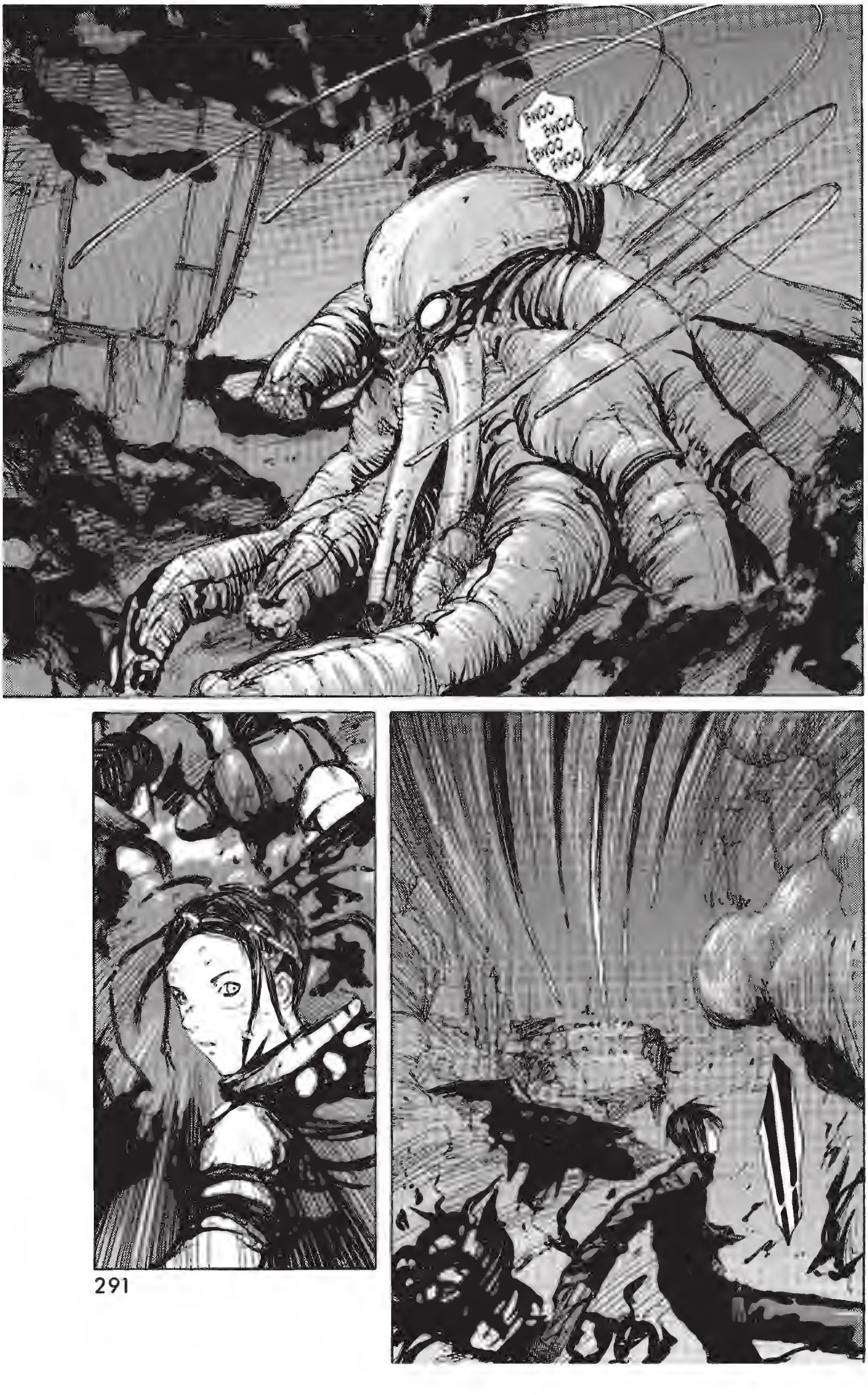

GATUNG
BOOOM
ZHA
BAKRING

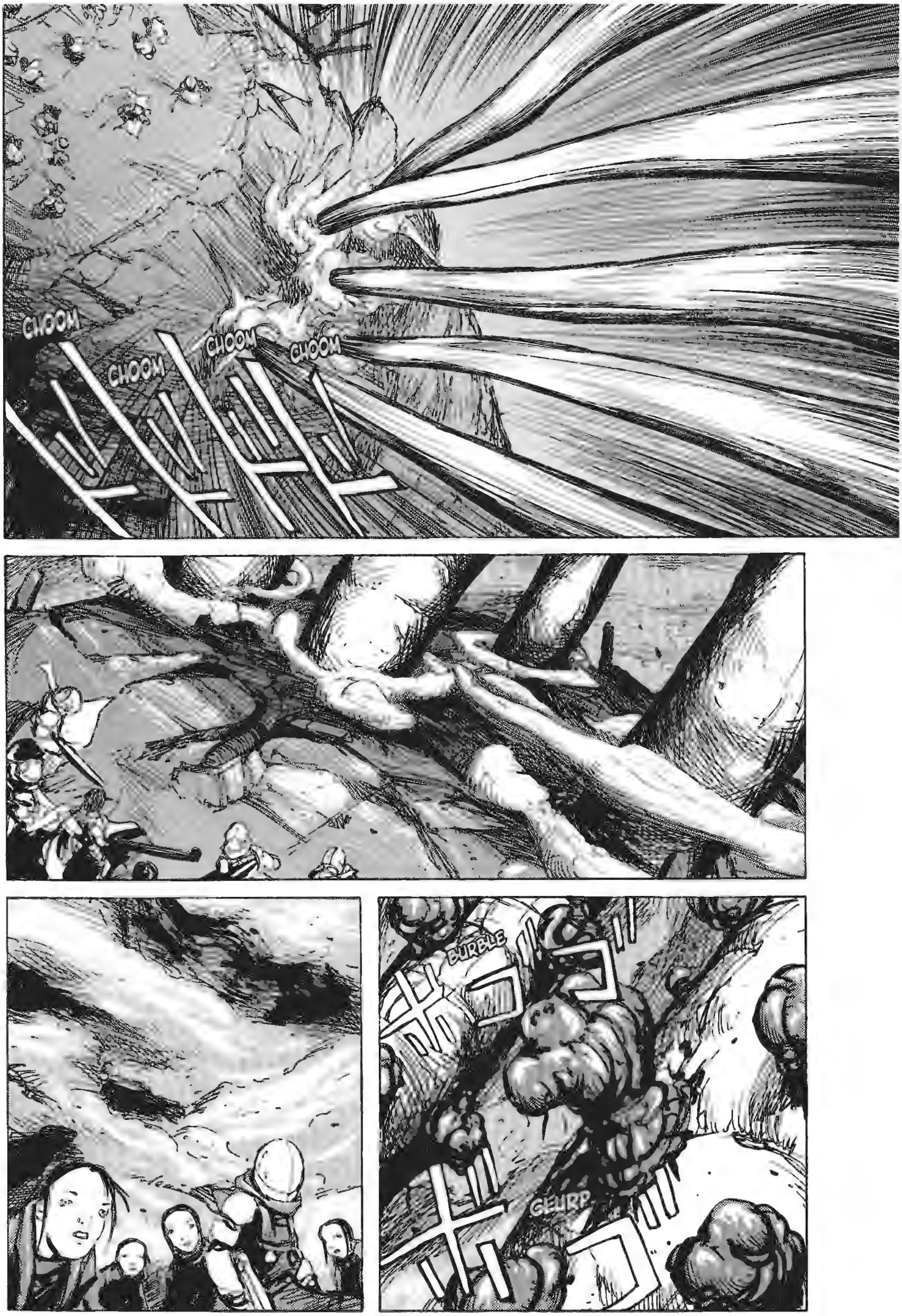

ズッ
ZWIPP
ドゴッ
GA BANG
ドドドド
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN

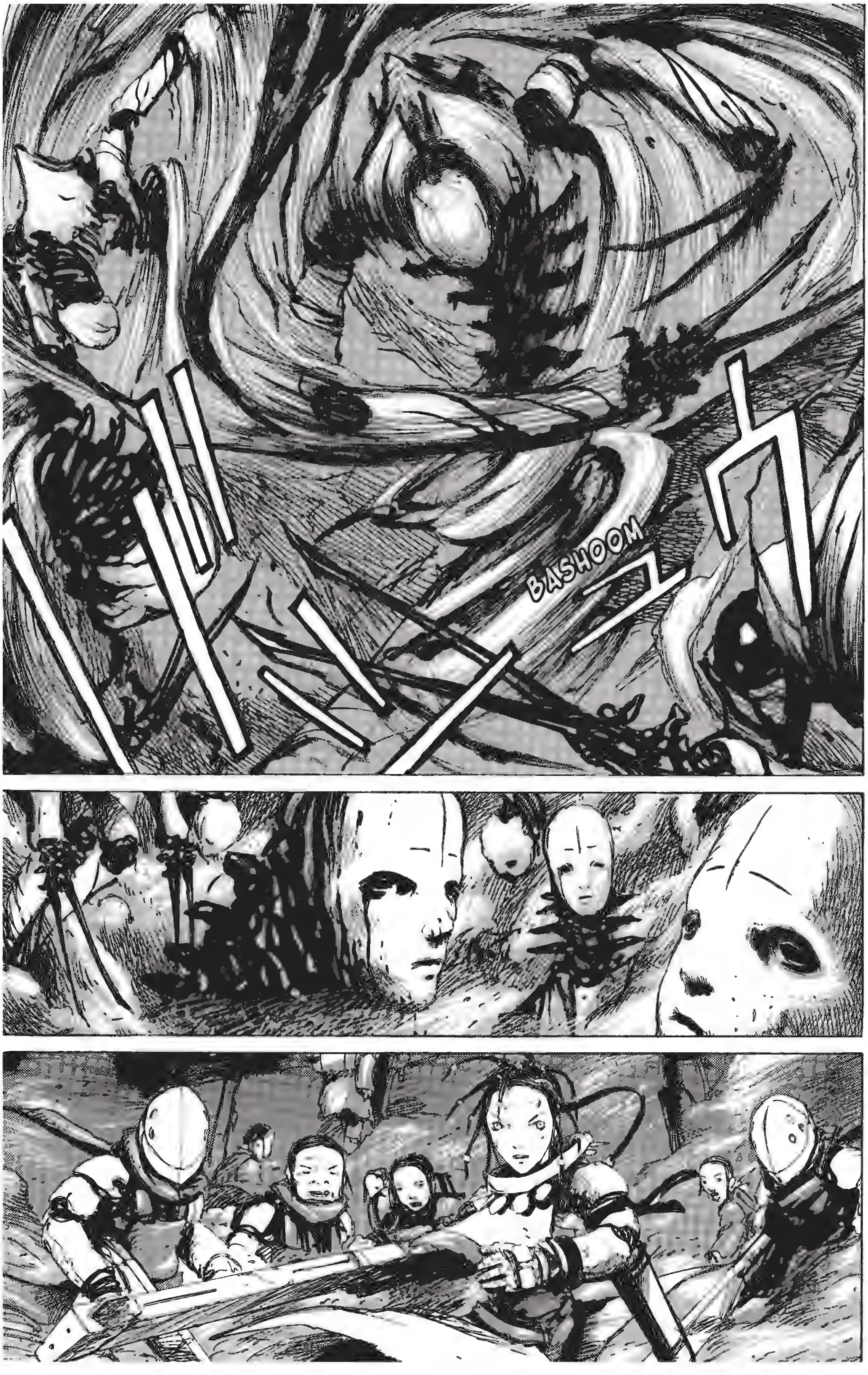


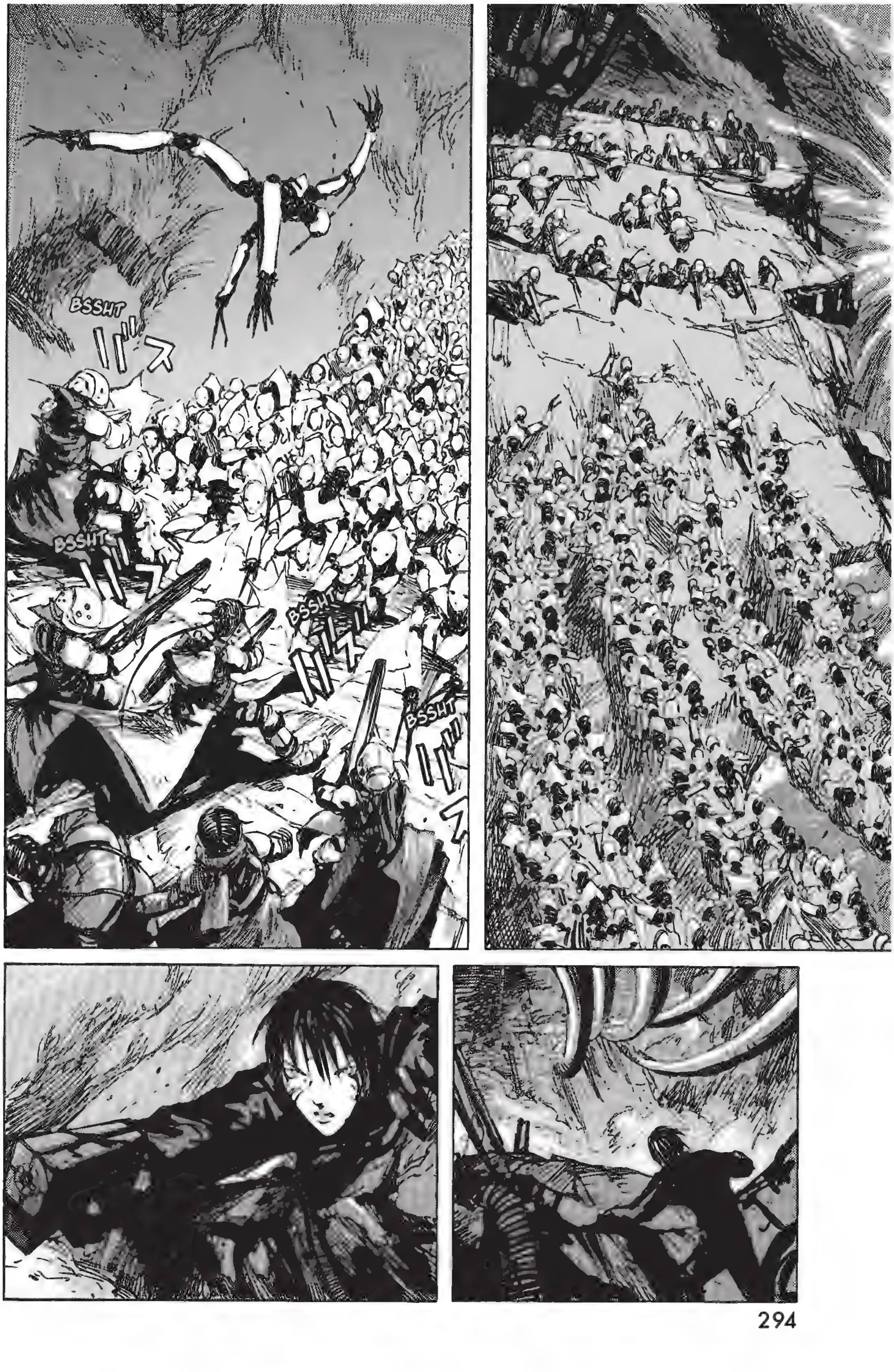

BANG
BANG
GWEEEM
ギュイイイ
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS CIBO?! YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD!
I'M ALL RIGHT...
EVER SINCE I LINKED WITH KYRII'S BRAIN... MY HEAD'S BEEN...


ドオーーン
KABOOOM
ドドーーン
BOOOOM
NOW'S OUR CHANCE! EVERYONE GET TO THE TOHA ENTRANCE!
...
HAA
HAA


BWOO BWOO BWOO BWOO


CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
BURBLE
GLURP


BASHOOM


BSSHT
ドス
BSSHT
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BSSHT
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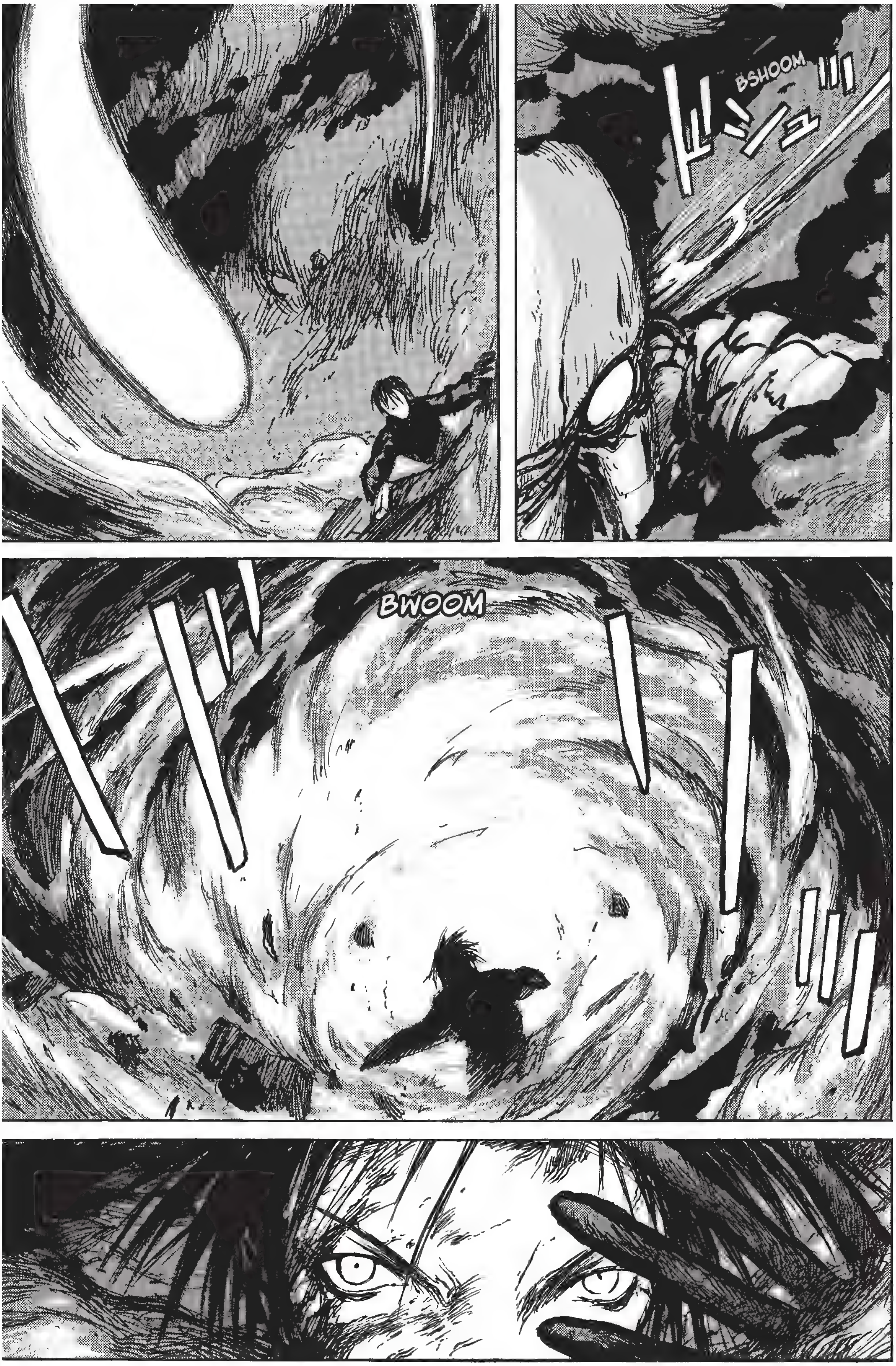
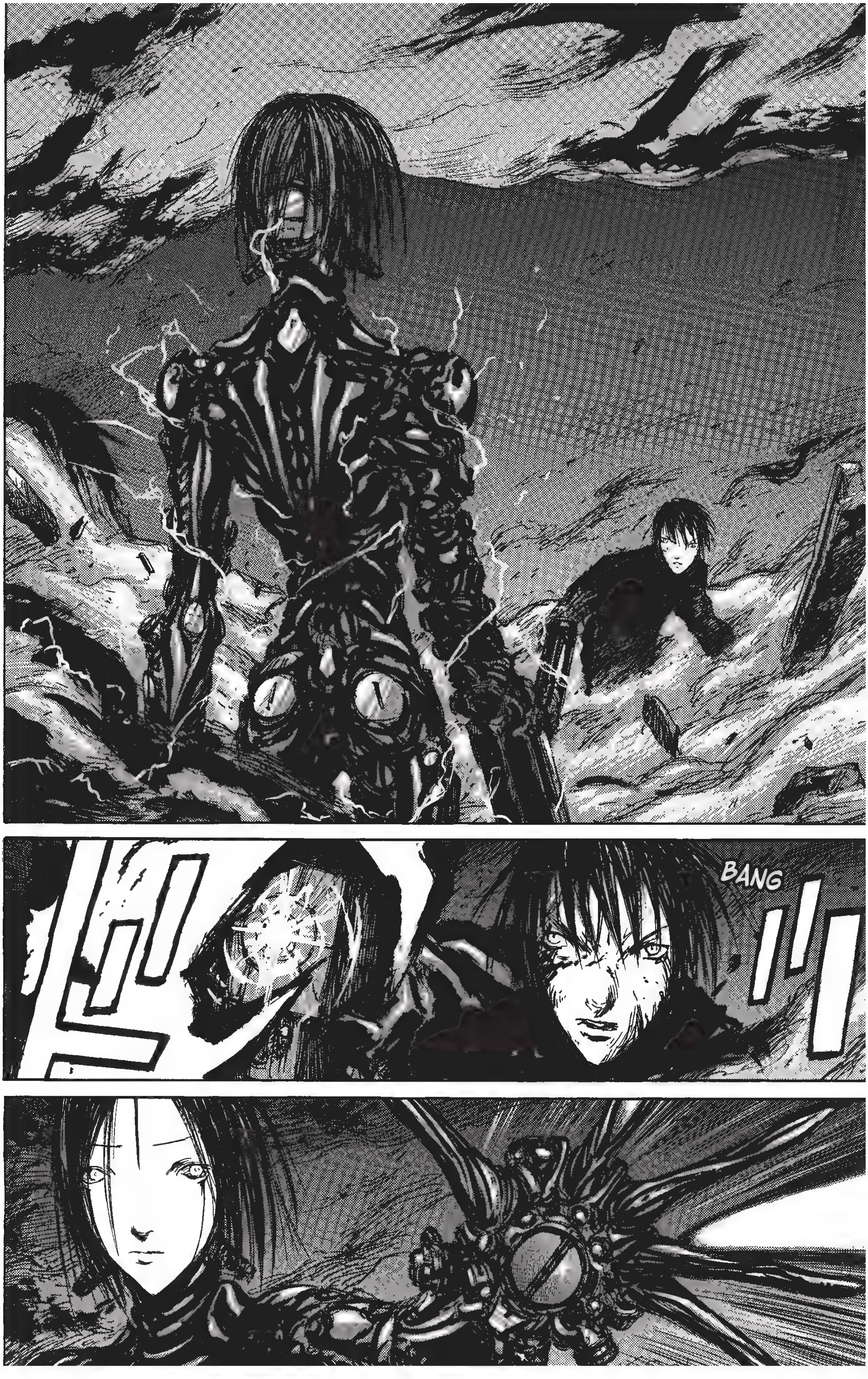
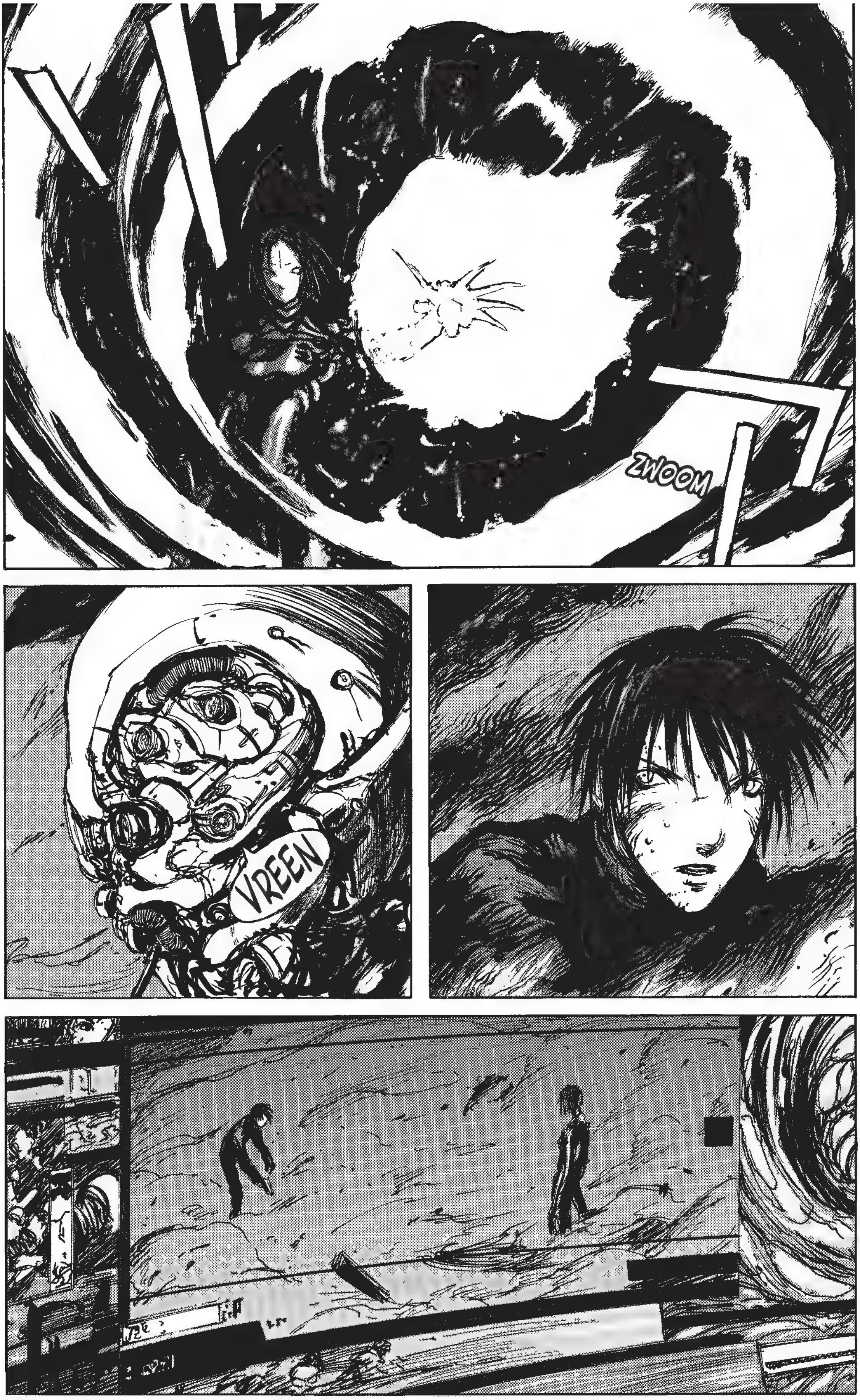
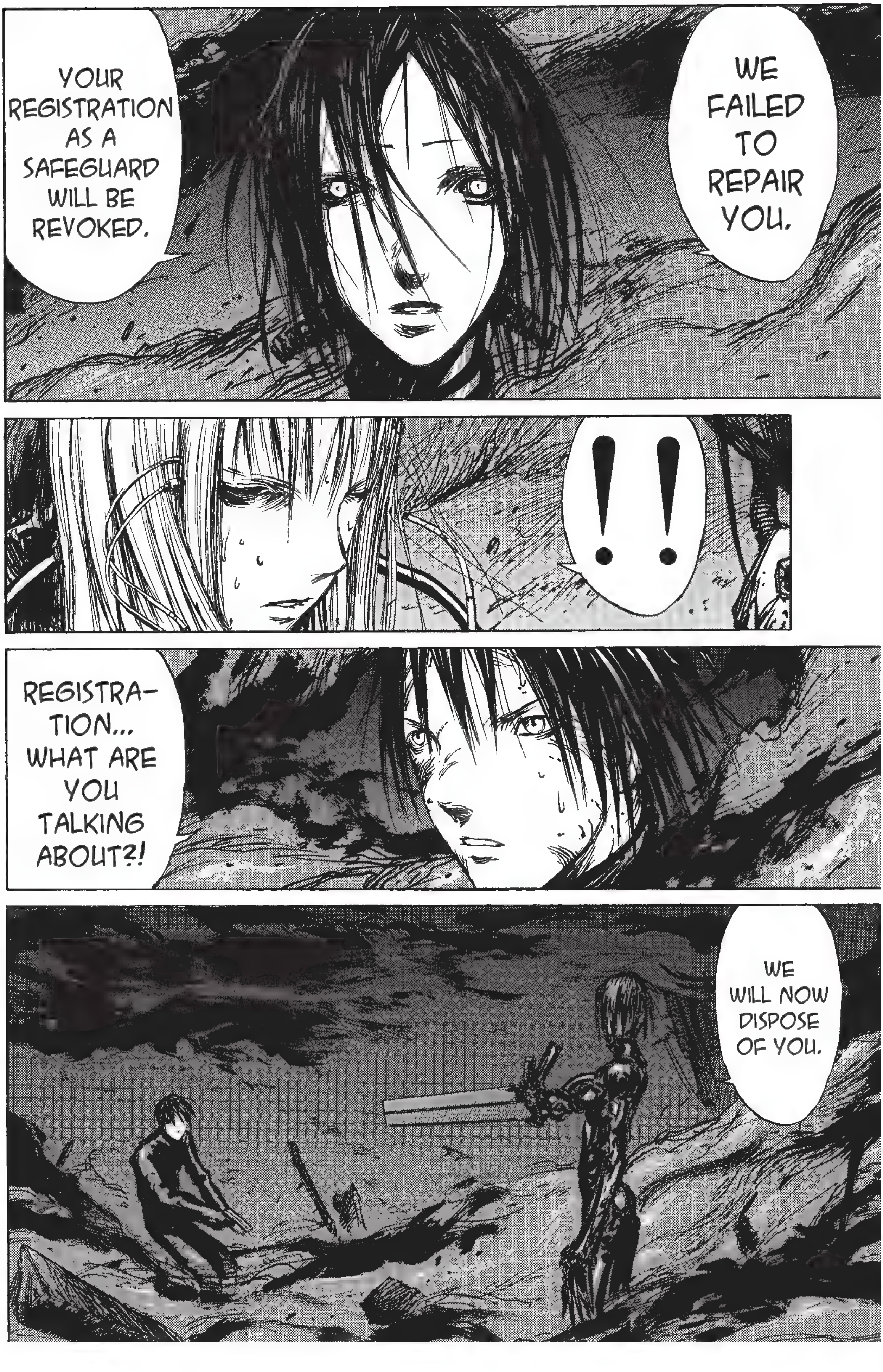
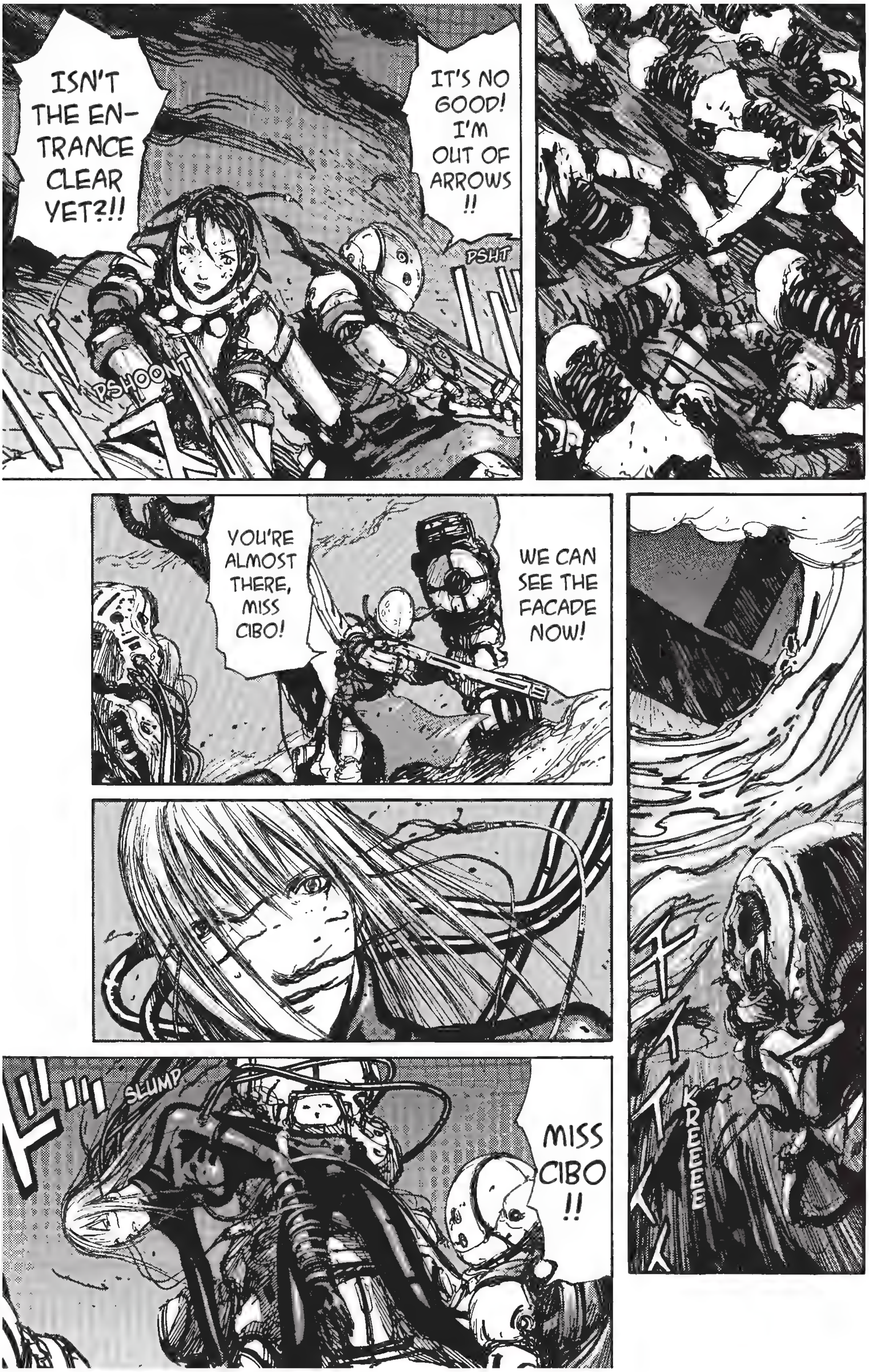
BSSHT
ドス

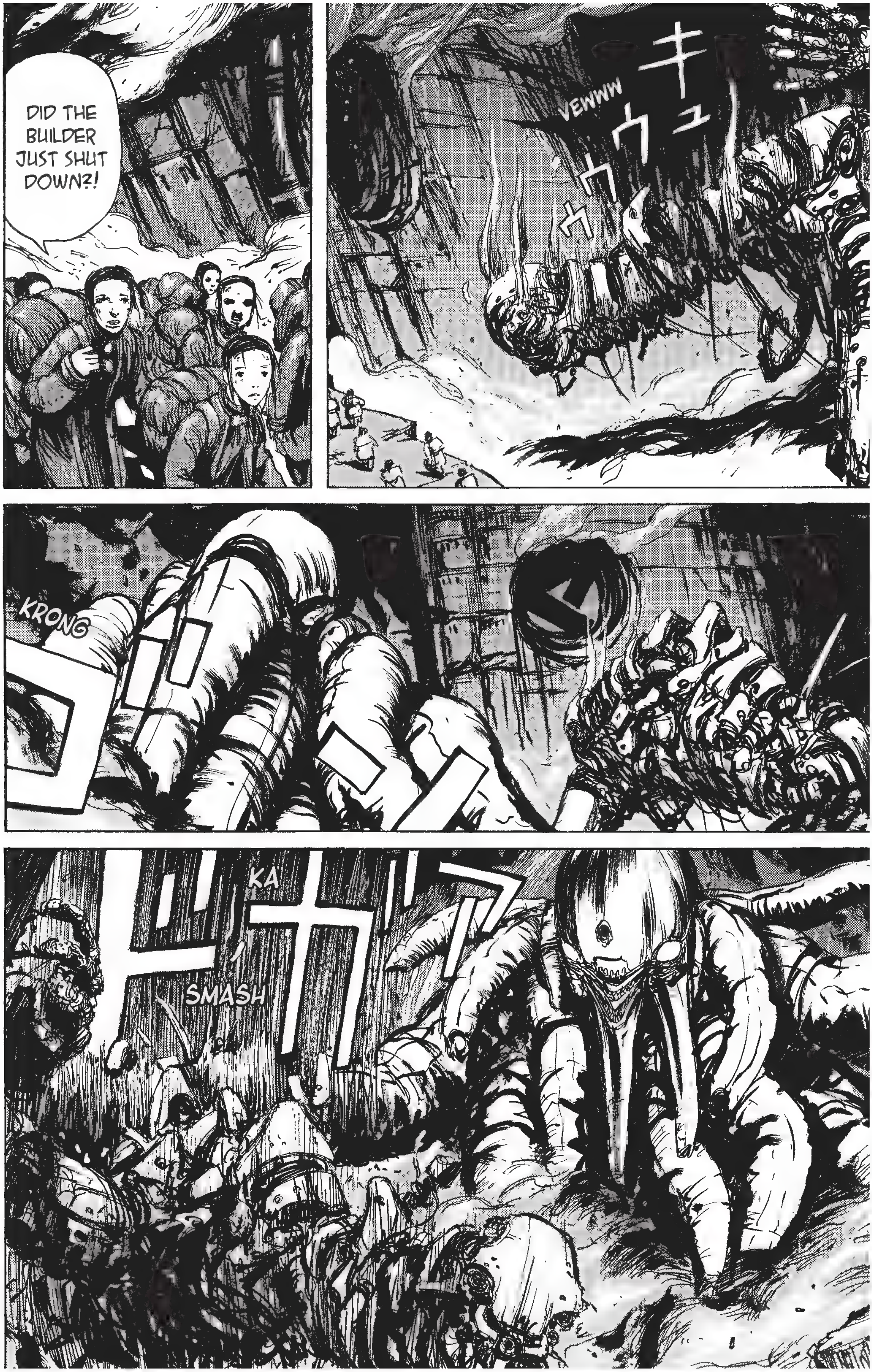

ドシュ
BSHOOM
BWOOM

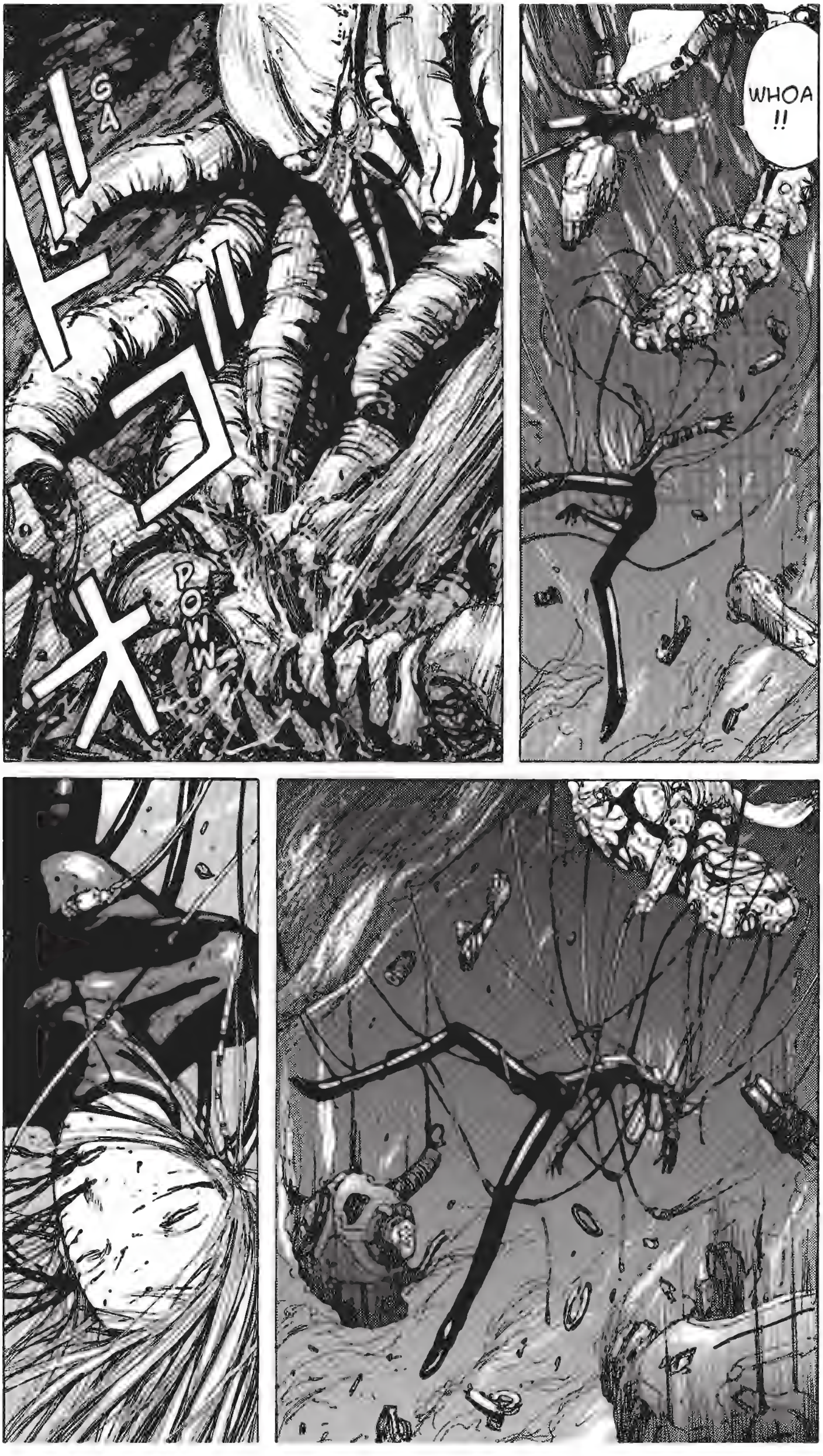

BANG

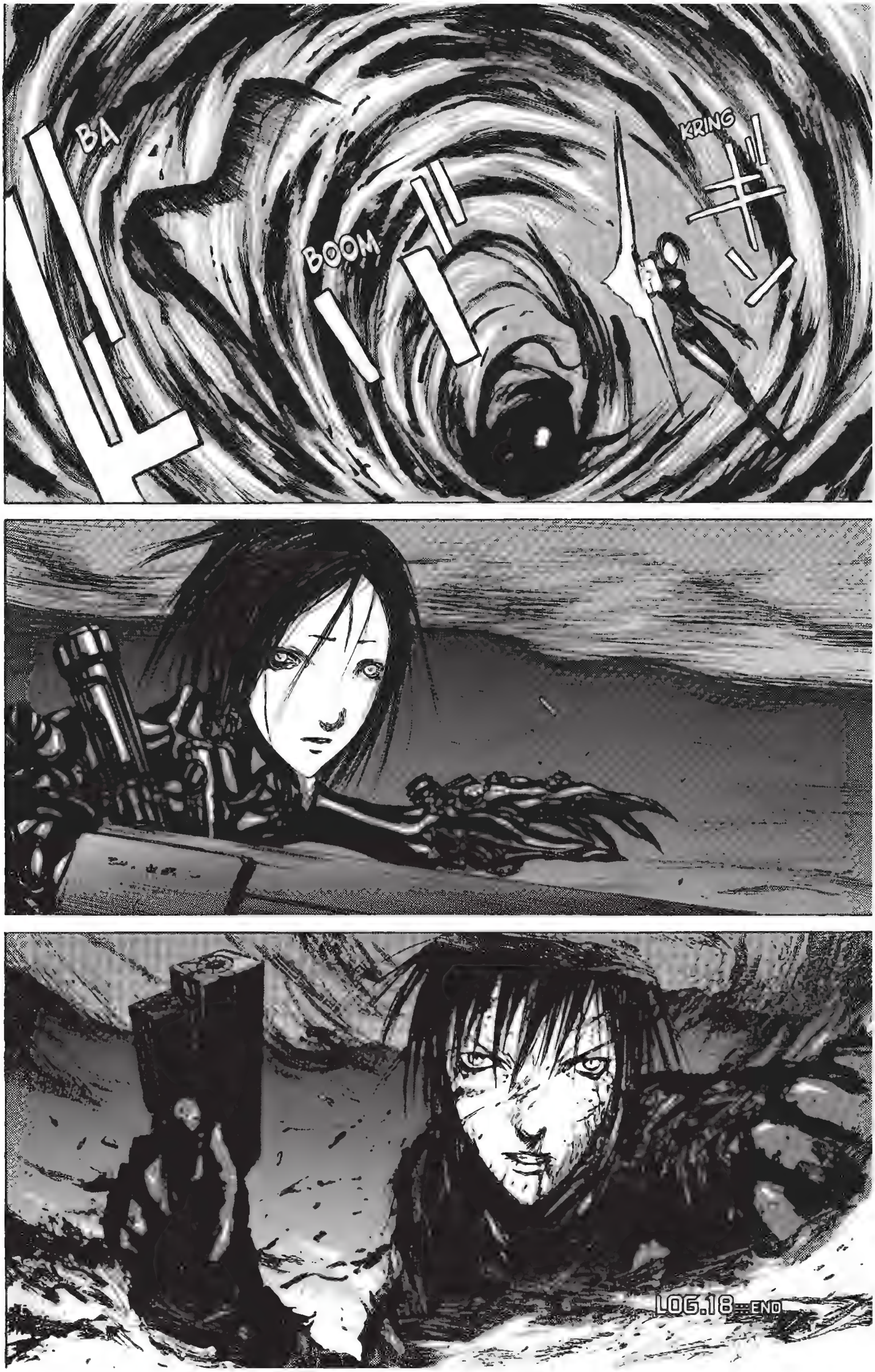

ZWOOM
VREEN

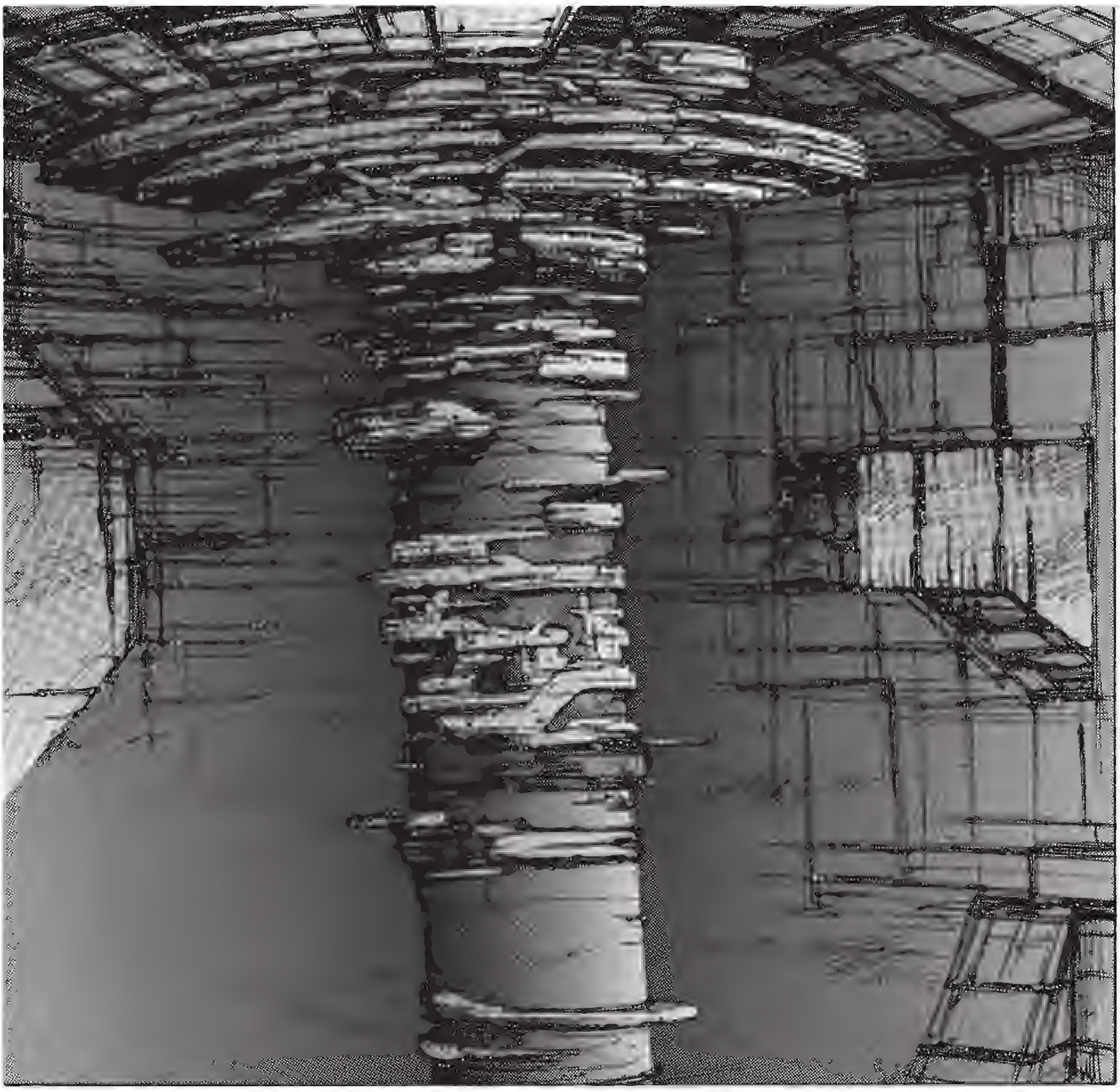

WE FAILED TO REPAIR YOU.
YOUR REGISTRATION AS A SAFEGUARD WILL BE REVOKED.
!!
REGISTRATION... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WE WILL NOW DISPOSE OF YOU.


IT'S NO GOOD! I'M OUT OF ARROWS!!
ISN'T THE ENTRANCE CLEAR YET?!!
PSHT
PSHOONT
KREEEE
WE CAN SEE THE FACADE NOW!
YOU'RE ALMOST THERE, MISS CIBO!
MISS CIBO!!
SLUMP
ドッ


VEWWW
DID THE BUILDER JUST SHUT DOWN?!
KRONG
KA
SMASH

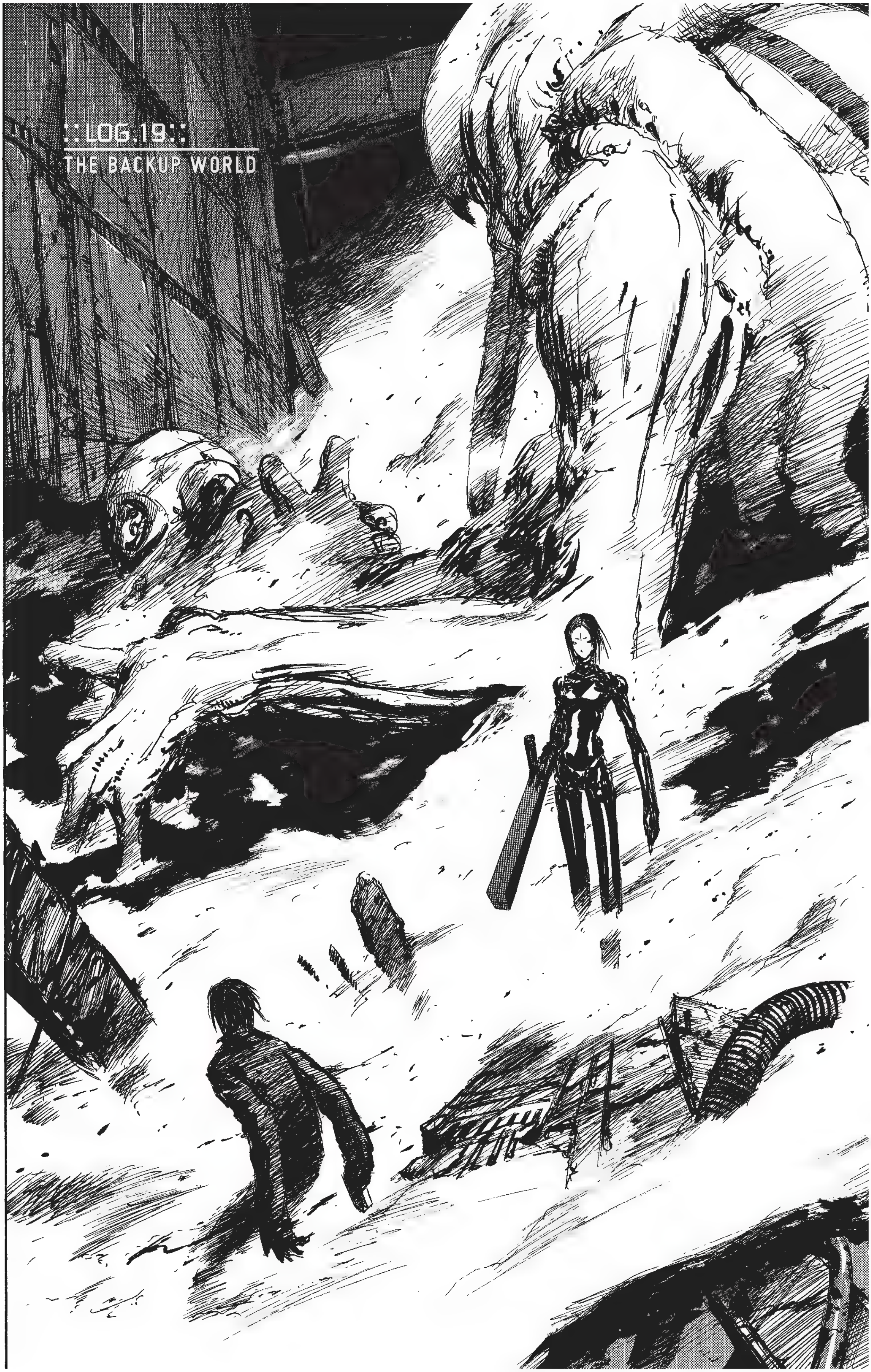

WHOA !!
GA
ドゴオ
POWW

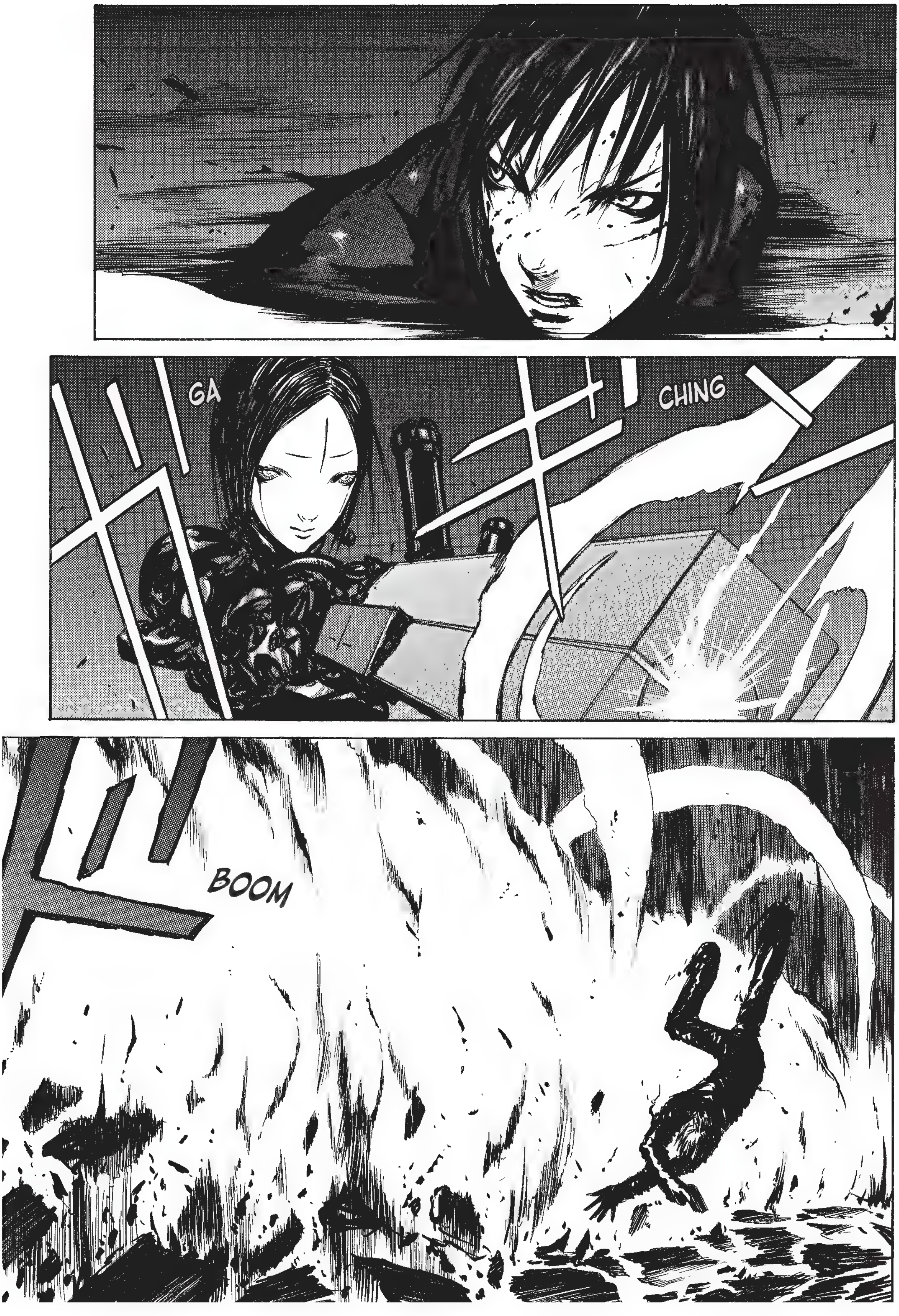

KRING
BOOM
BA
LOG.18 ::: END

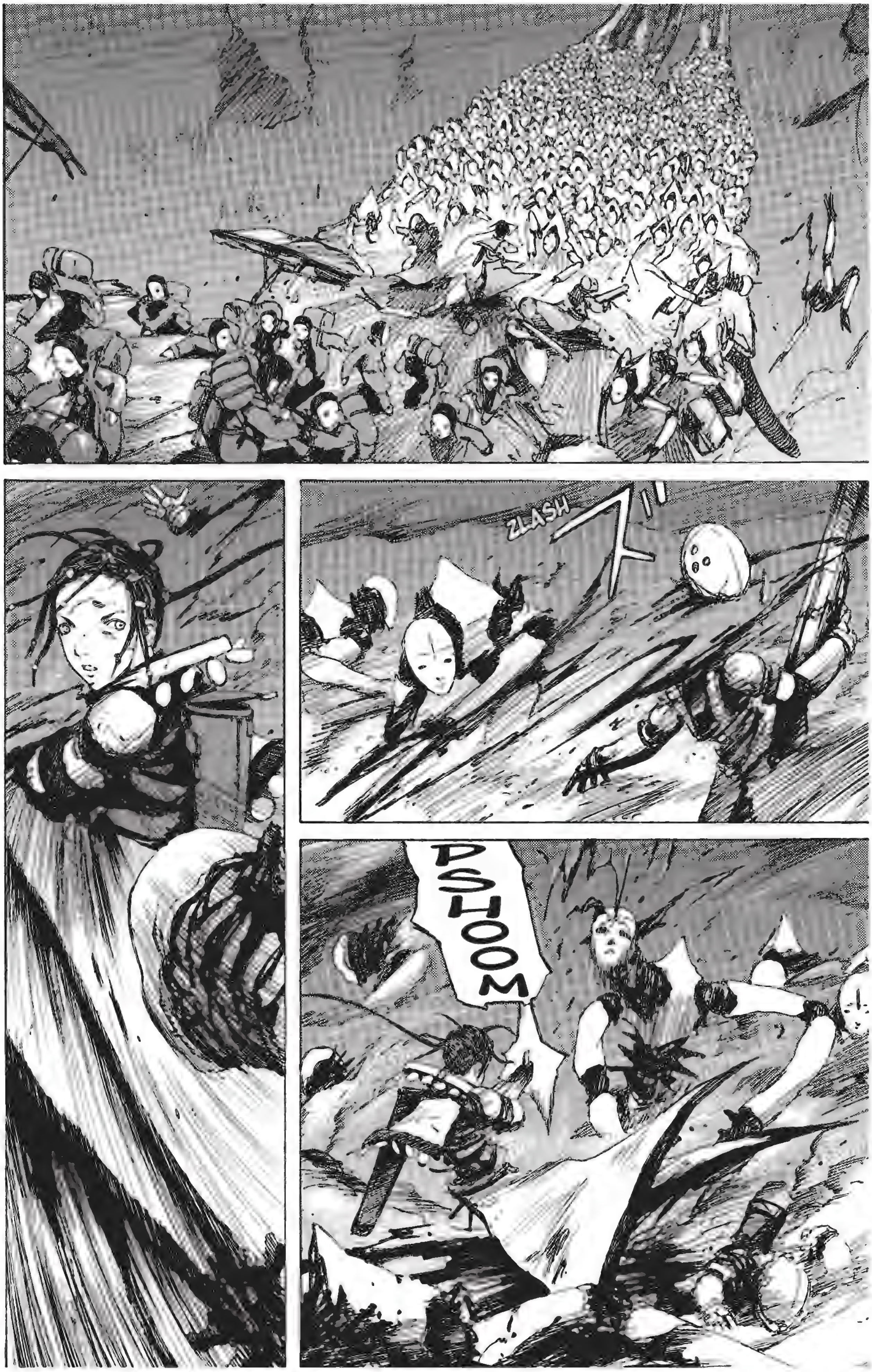


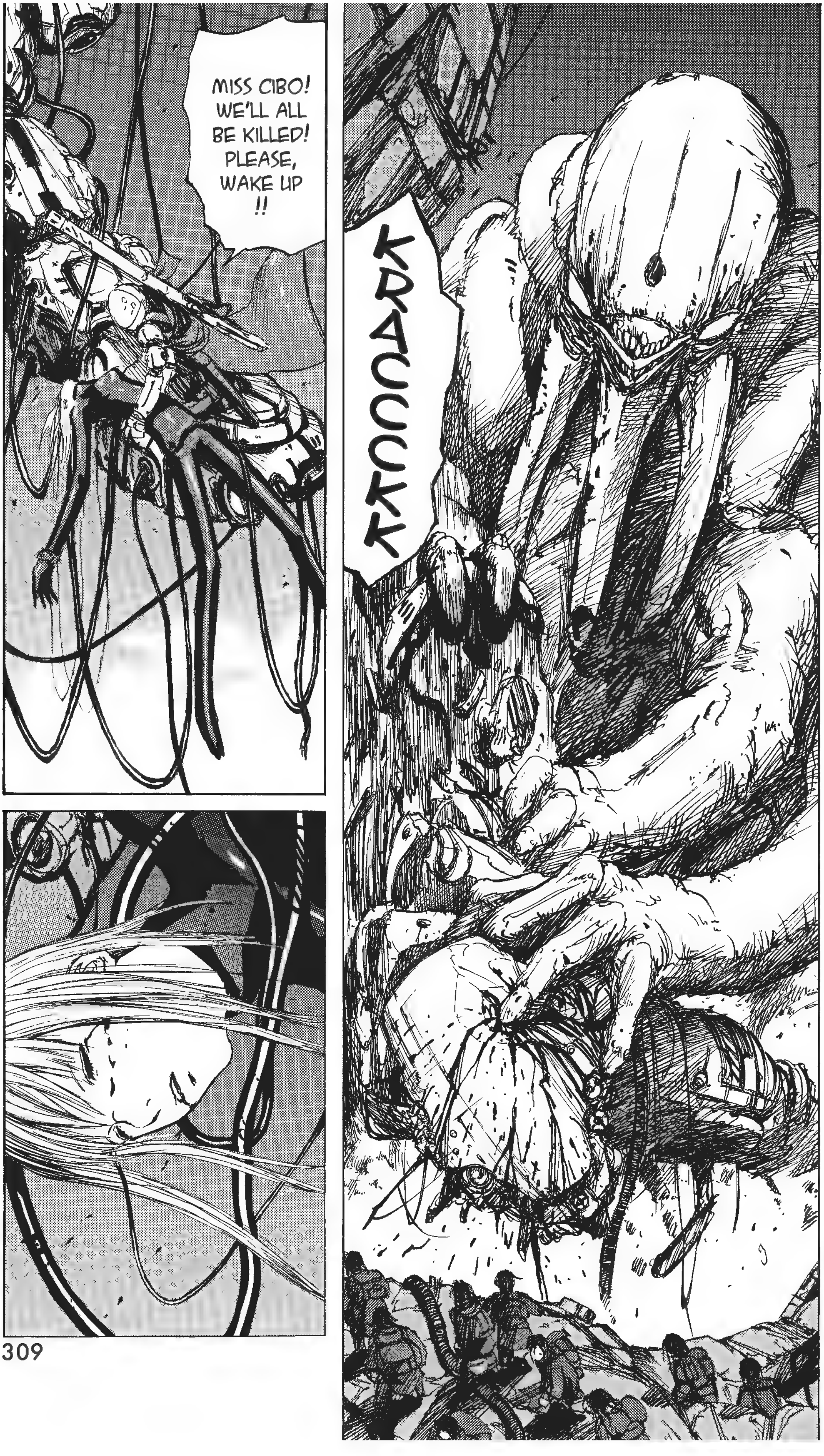
::LOG.19::

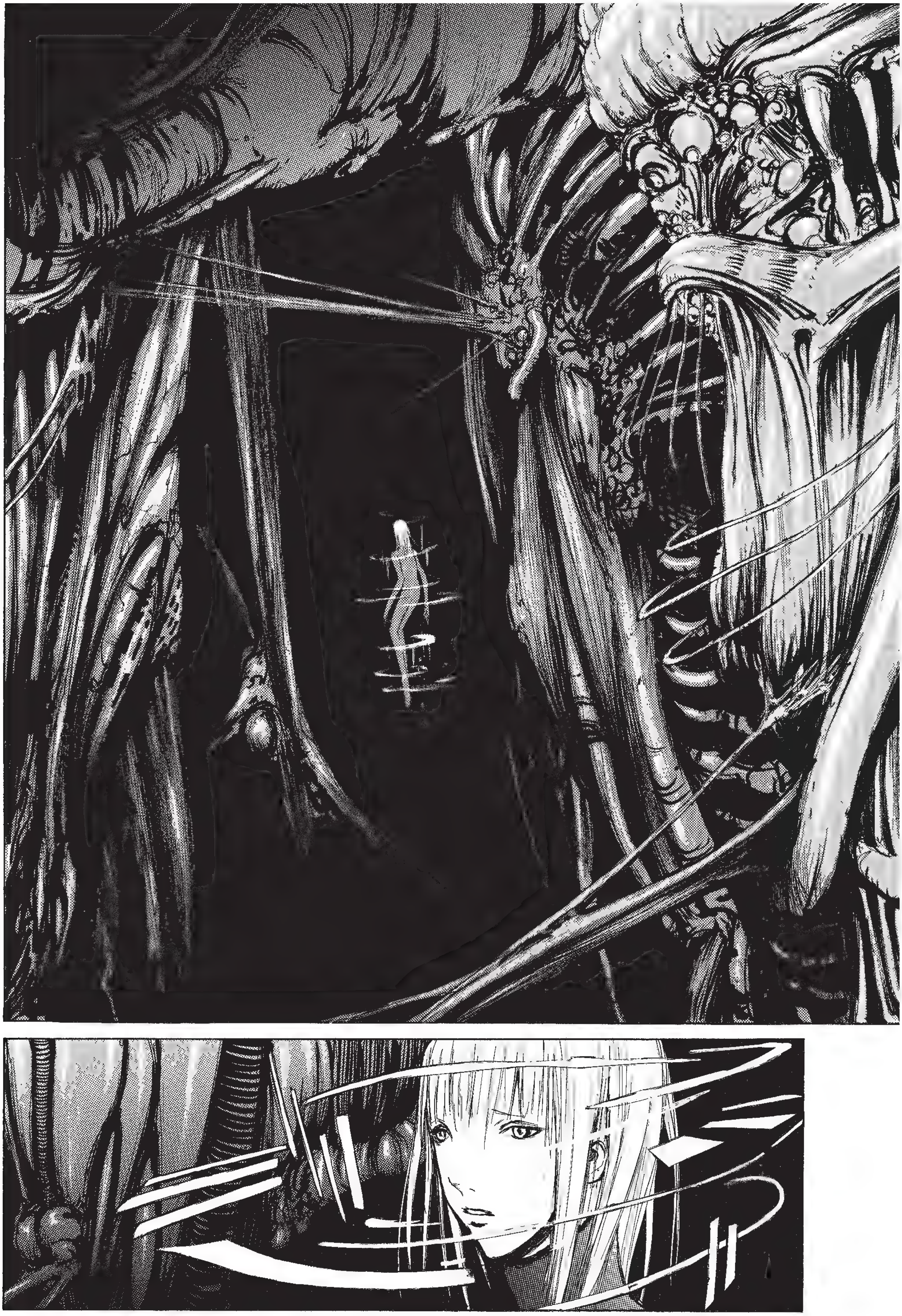
THE BACKUP WORLD

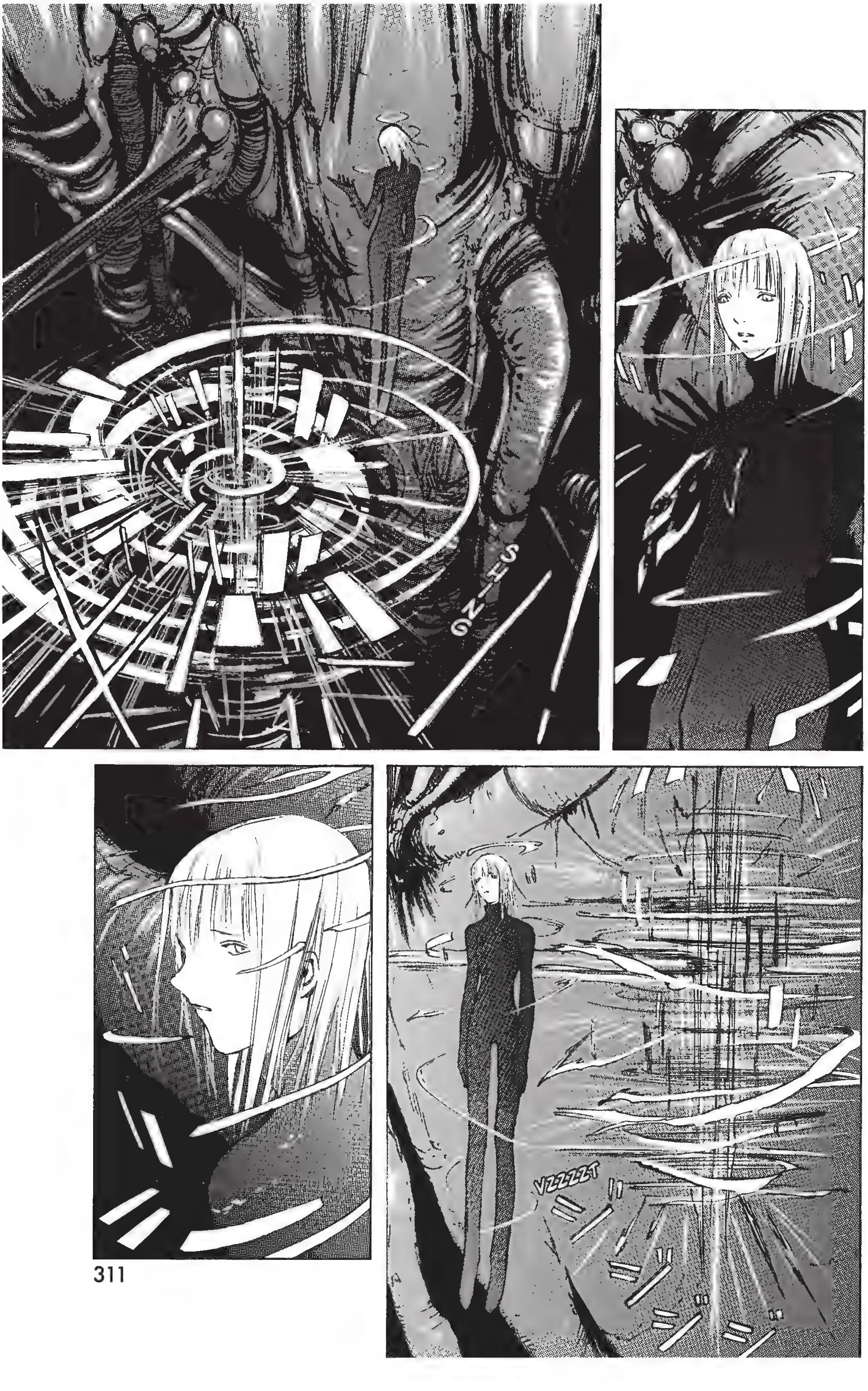


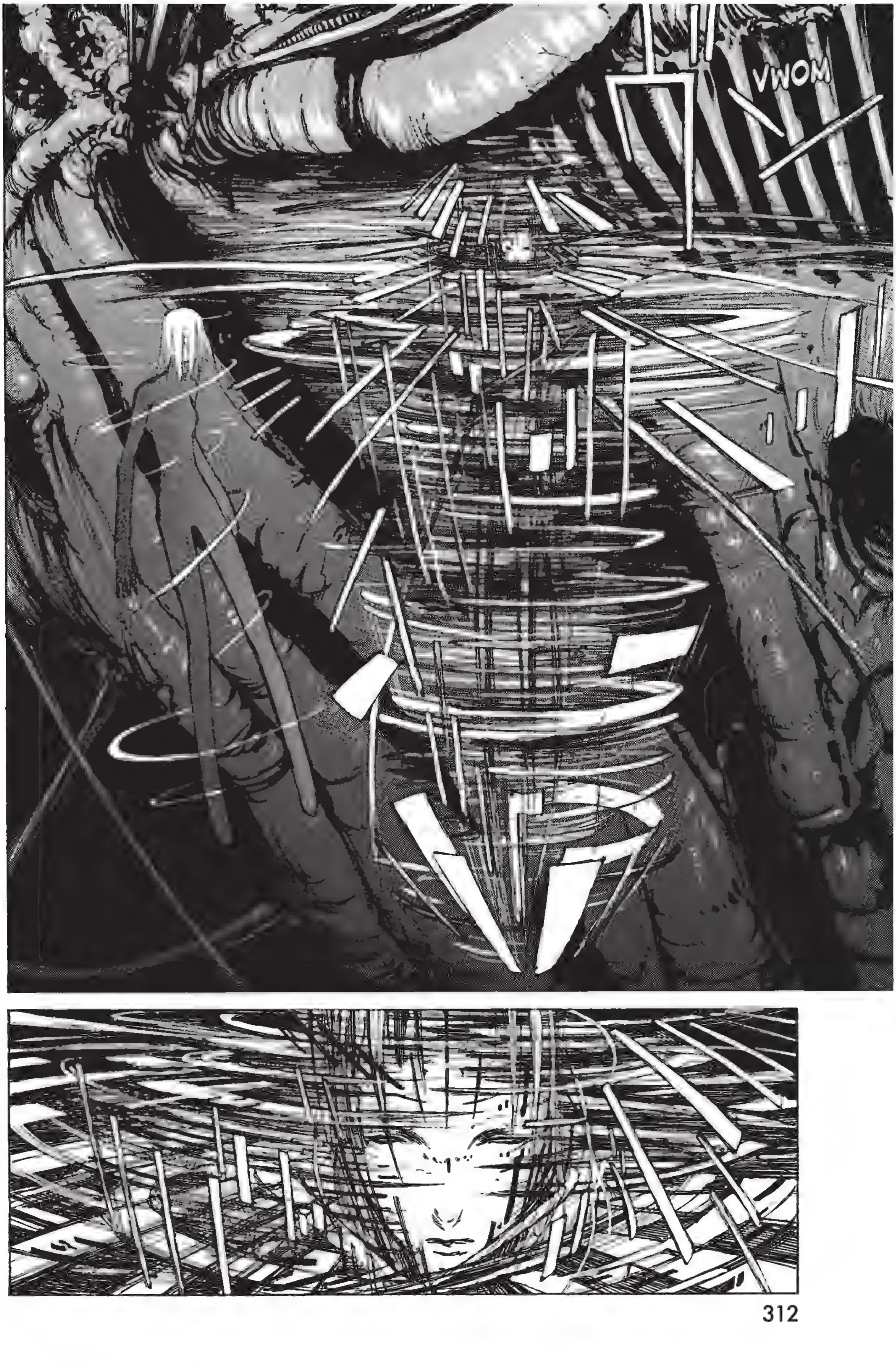

GA
CHING
BOOM

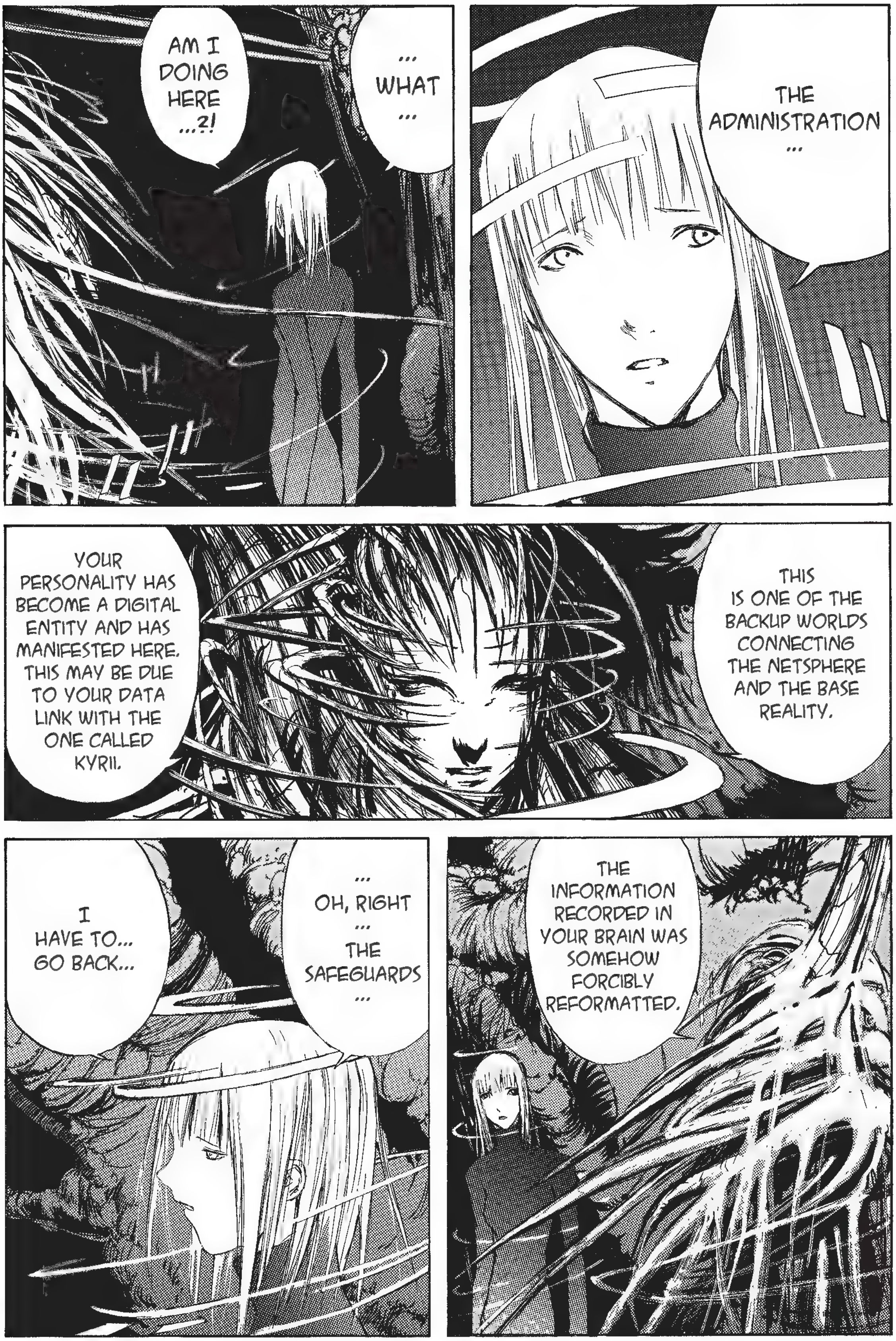

ZLASH
ズ
PSHOOM

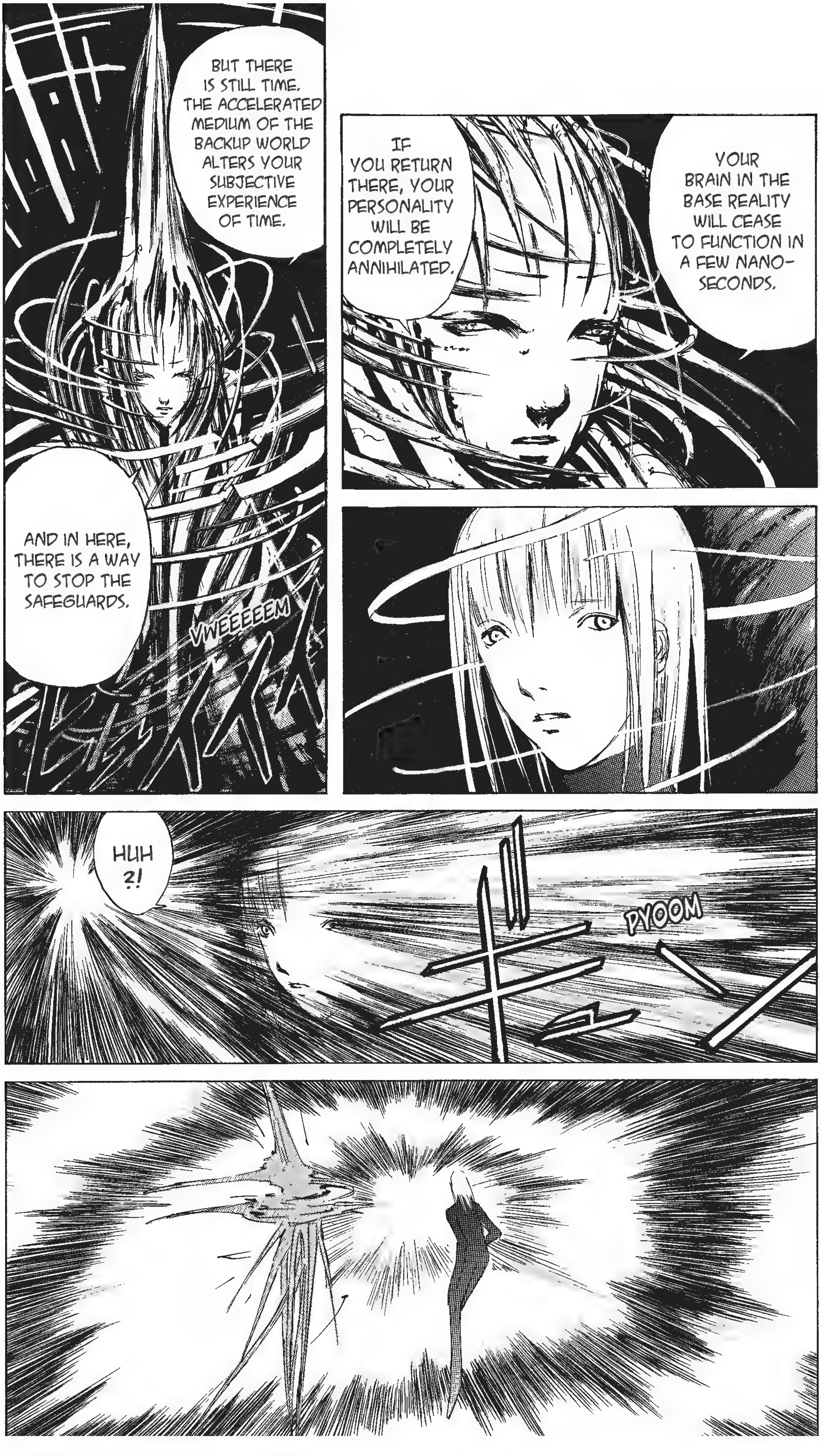

KRACCCKK
MISS CIBO! WE'LL ALL BE KILLED! PLEASE, WAKE UP !!

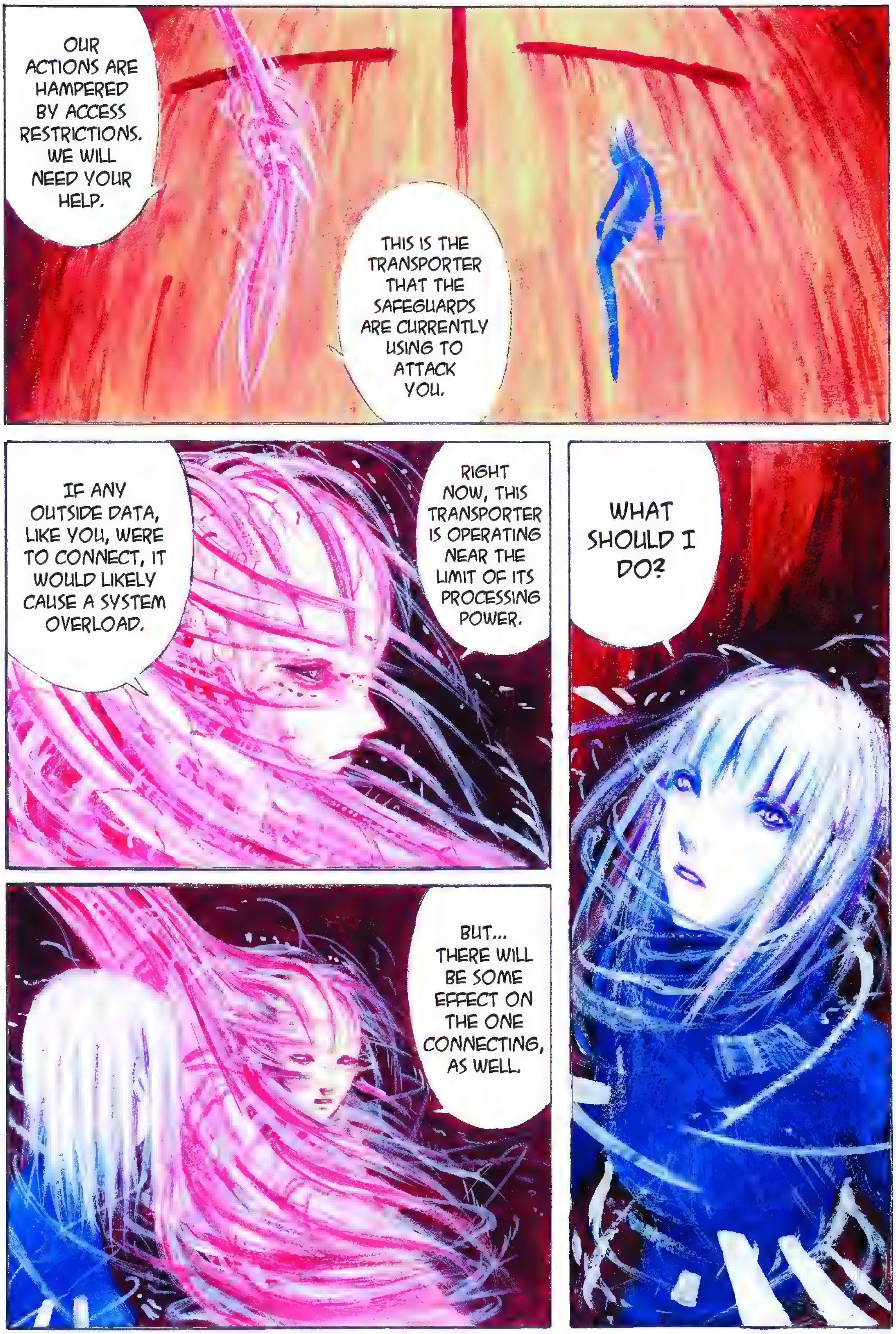


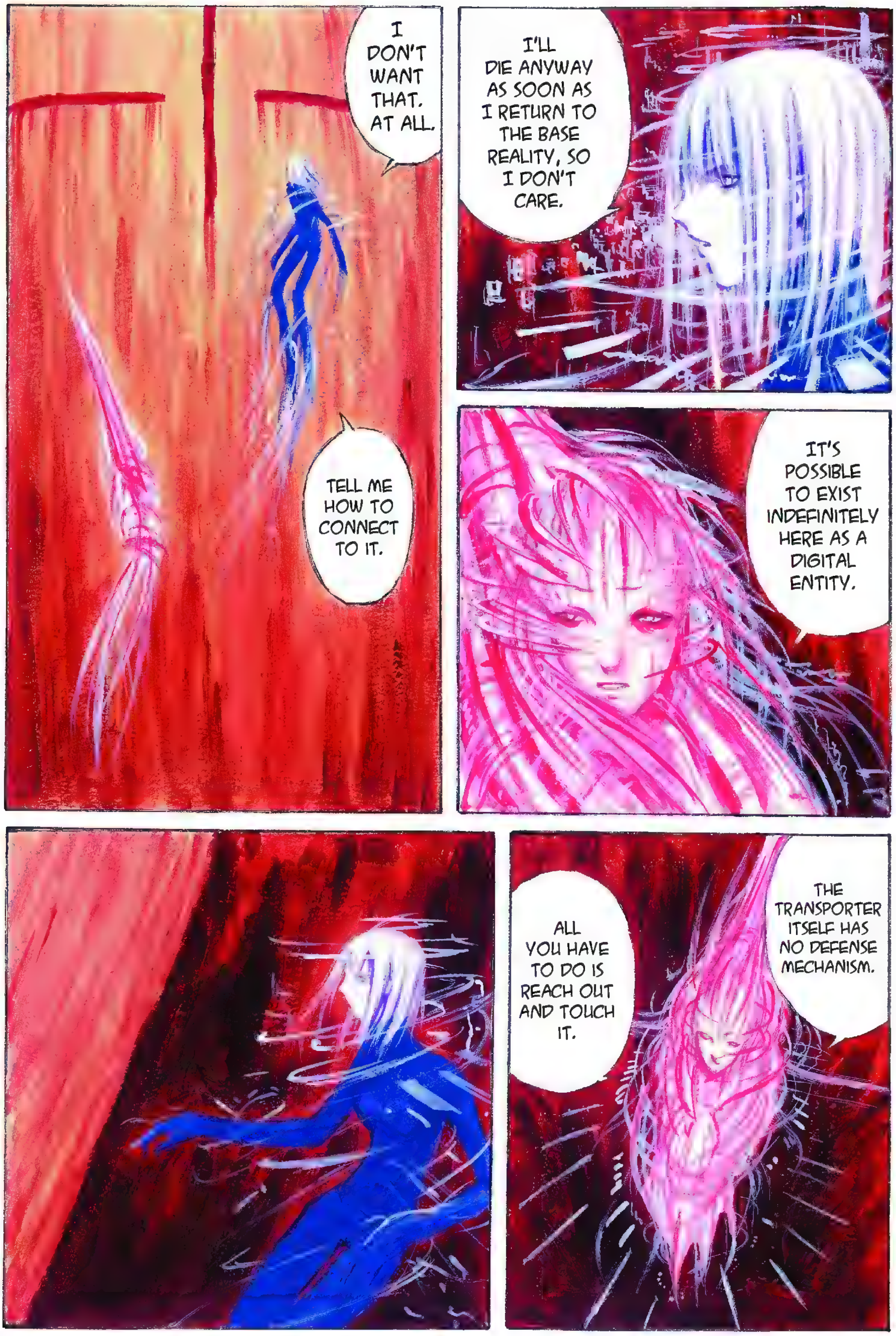

SHING
VZZZZT

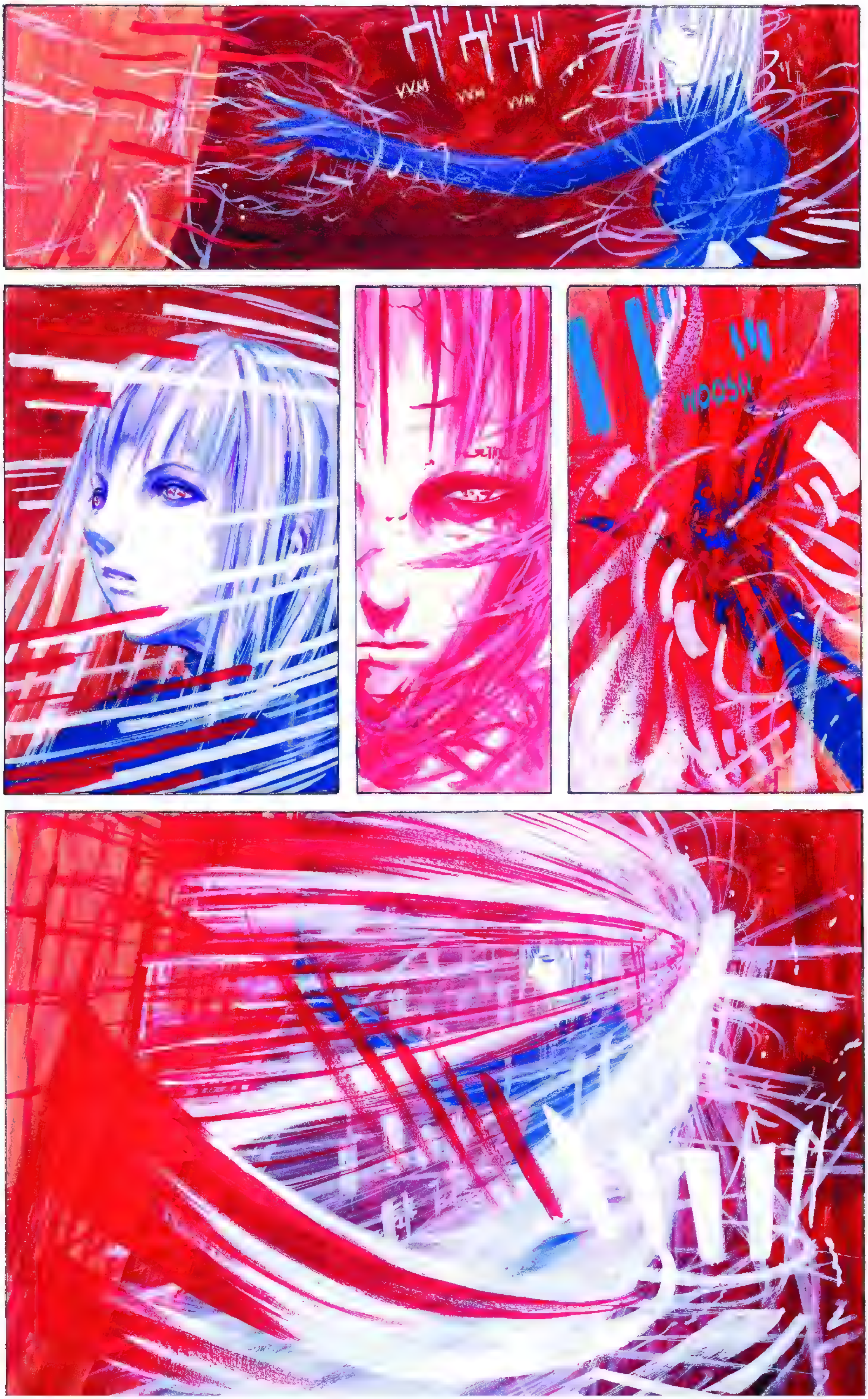

VWOM

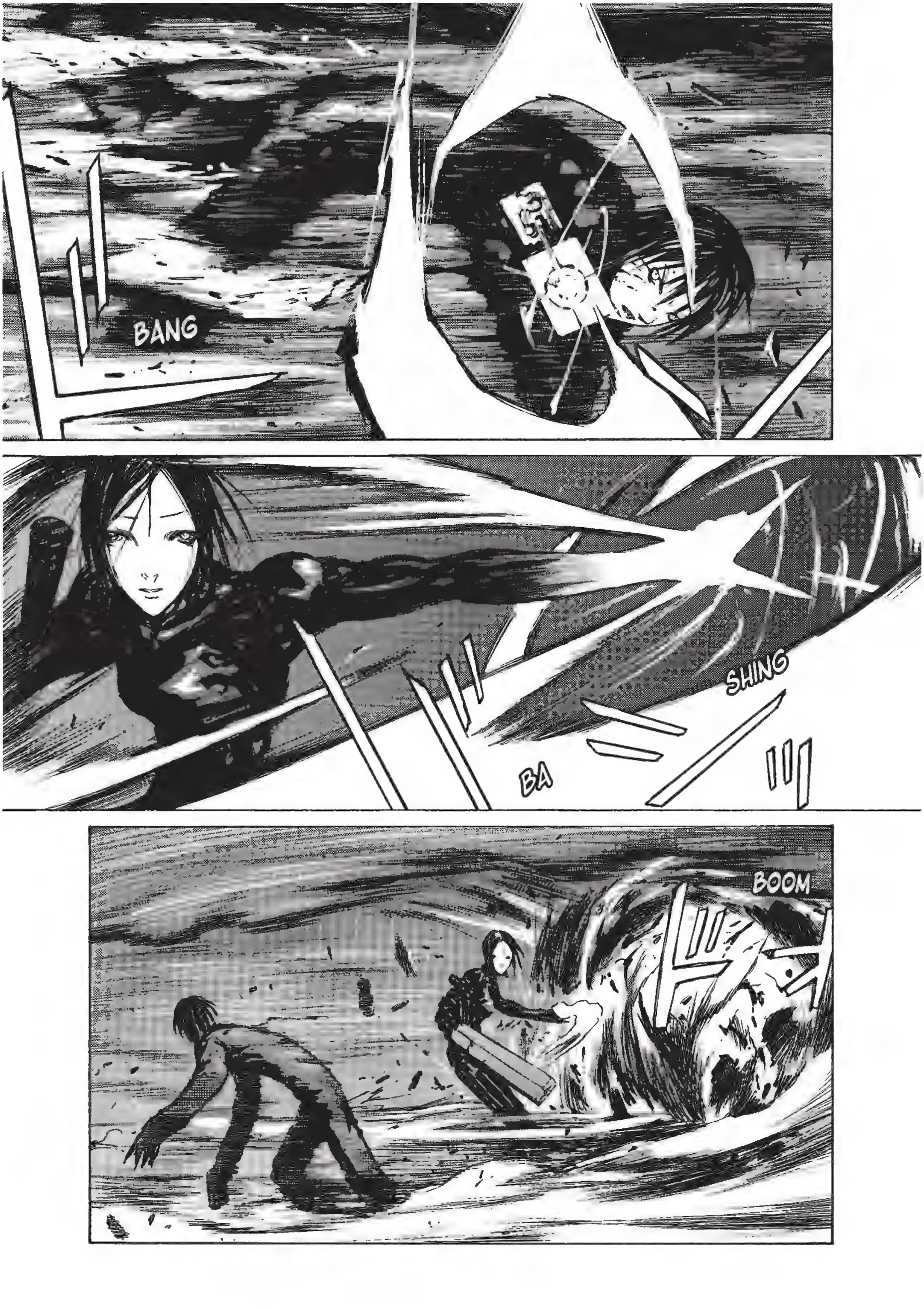

THE ADMINISTRATION ...
... WHAT ...
AM I DOING HERE ...?!
THIS IS ONE OF THE BACKUP WORLDS CONNECTING THE NETSPHERE AND THE BASE REALITY.
YOUR PERSONALITY HAS BECOME A DIGITAL ENTITY AND HAS MANIFESTED HERE. THIS MAY BE DUE TO YOUR DATA LINK WITH THE ONE CALLED KYRII.
THE INFORMATION RECORDED IN YOUR BRAIN WAS SOMEHOW FORCIBLY REFORMATTED.
... OH, RIGHT ... THE SAFEGUARDS ...
I HAVE TO... GO BACK...

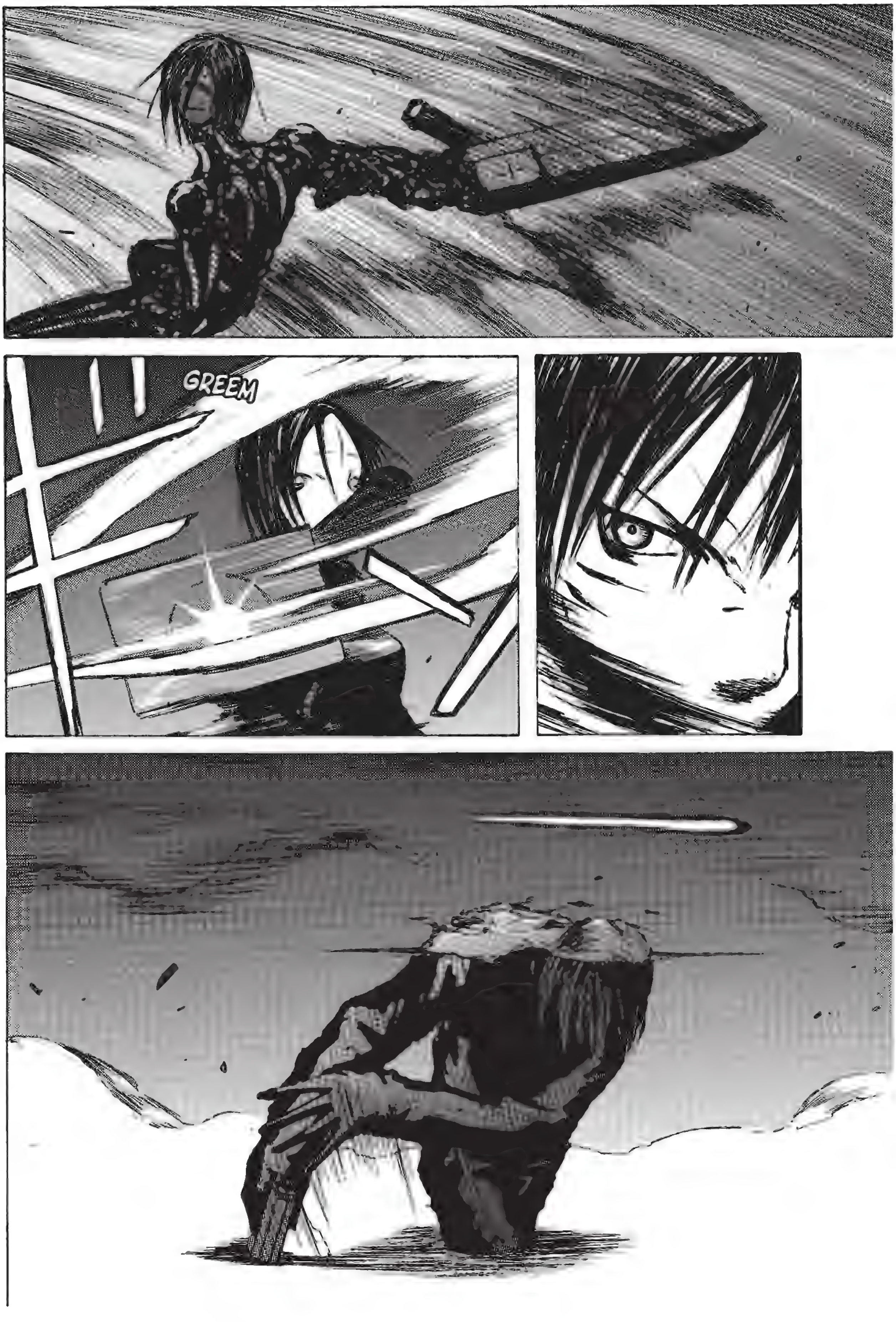

YOUR BRAIN IN THE BASE REALITY WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION IN A FEW NANO-SECONDS.
IF YOU RETURN THERE, YOUR PERSONALITY WILL BE COMPLETELY ANNIHILATED.
BUT THERE IS STILL TIME. THE ACCELERATED MEDIUM OF THE BACKUP WORLD ALTERS YOUR SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF TIME.
AND IN HERE, THERE IS A WAY TO STOP THE SAFEGUARDS.
VWEEEEEM
HUH ?!
PYOOM

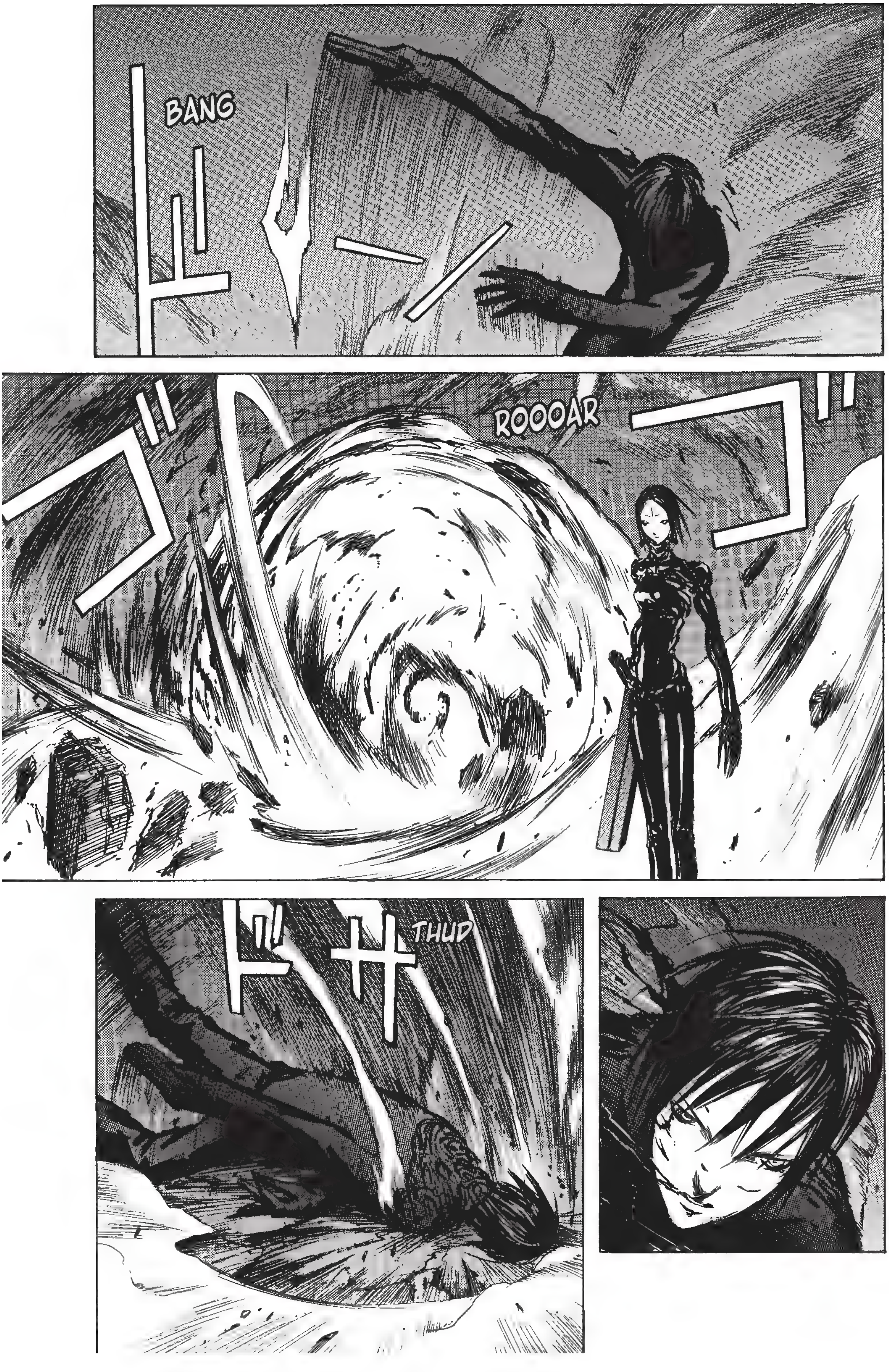

THIS IS THE TRANSPORTER THAT THE SAFEGUARDS ARE CURRENTLY USING TO ATTACK YOU.
OUR ACTIONS ARE HAMPERED BY ACCESS RESTRICTIONS. WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
RIGHT NOW, THIS TRANSPORTER IS OPERATING NEAR THE LIMIT OF ITS PROCESSING POWER.
IF ANY OUTSIDE DATA, LIKE YOU, WERE TO CONNECT, IT WOULD LIKELY CAUSE A SYSTEM OVERLOAD.
BUT... THERE WILL BE SOME EFFECT ON THE ONE CONNECTING, AS WELL.

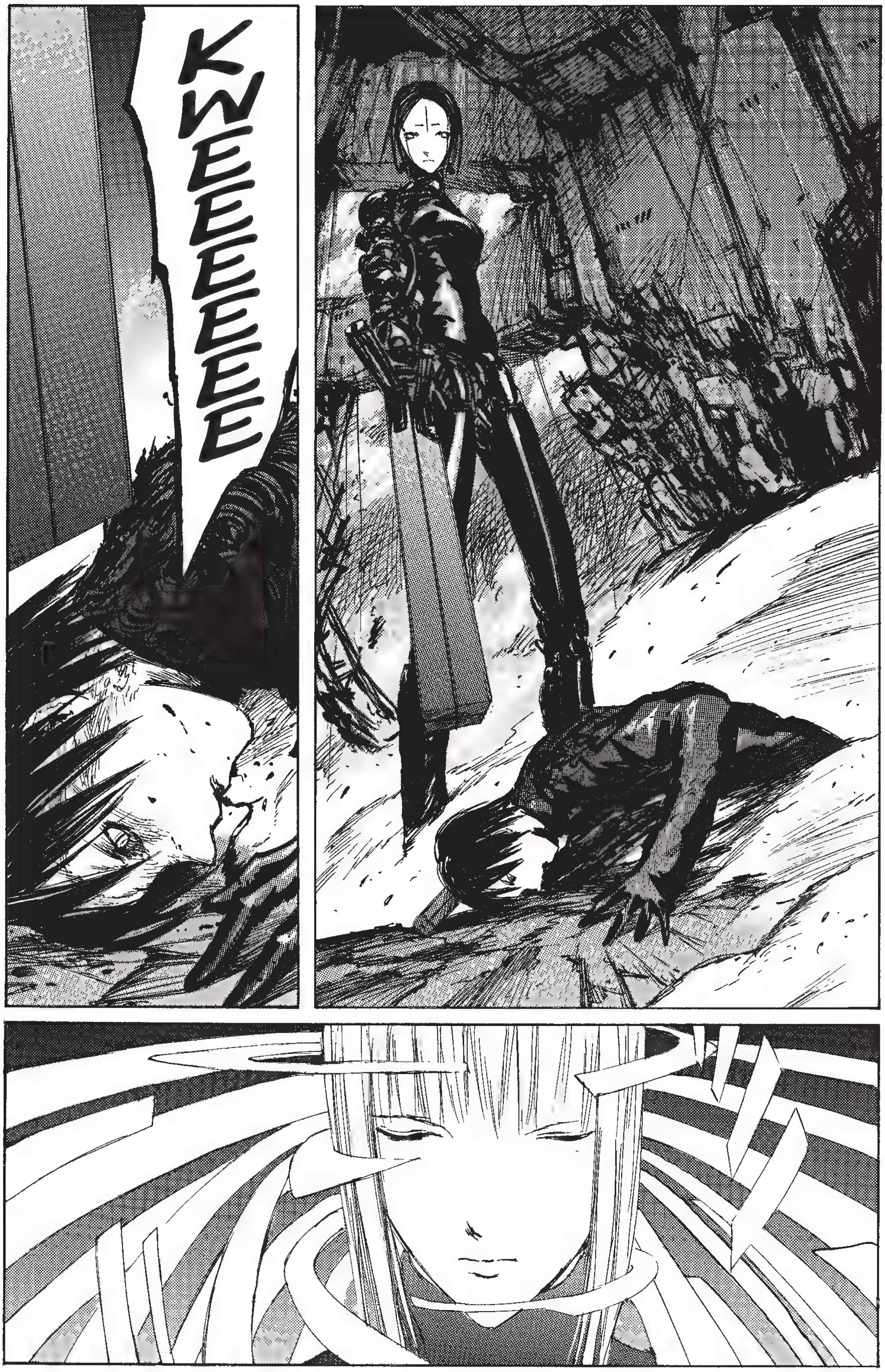

I'LL DIE ANYWAY AS SOON AS I RETURN TO THE BASE REALITY, SO I DON'T CARE.
IT'S POSSIBLE TO EXIST INDEFINITELY HERE AS A DIGITAL ENTITY.
I DON'T WANT THAT. AT ALL.
TELL ME HOW TO CONNECT TO IT.
THE TRANSPORTER ITSELF HAS NO DEFENSE MECHANISM.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS REACH OUT AND TOUCH IT.

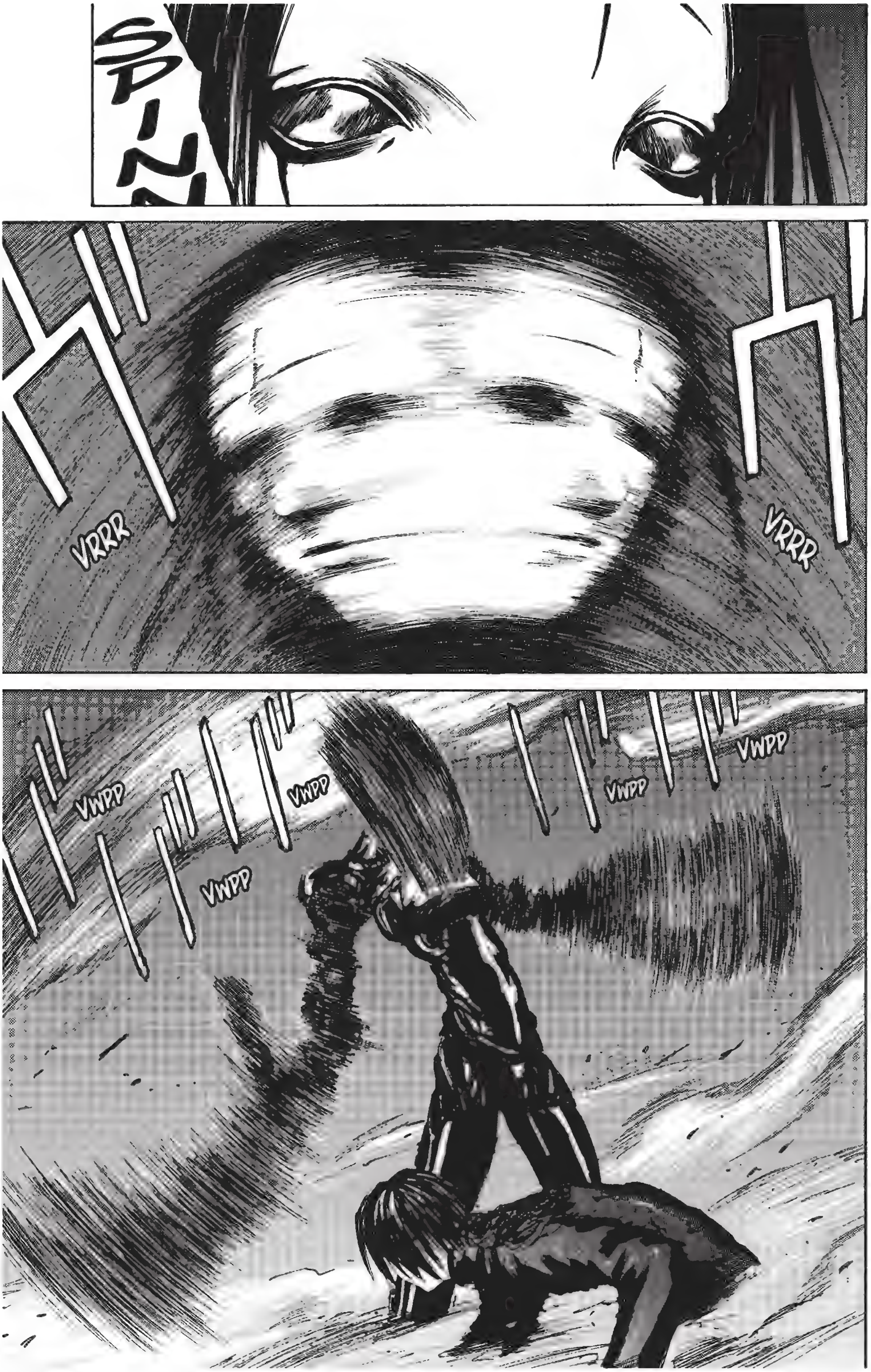

ヴヴヴ
VVM VVM VVM
WOOSH

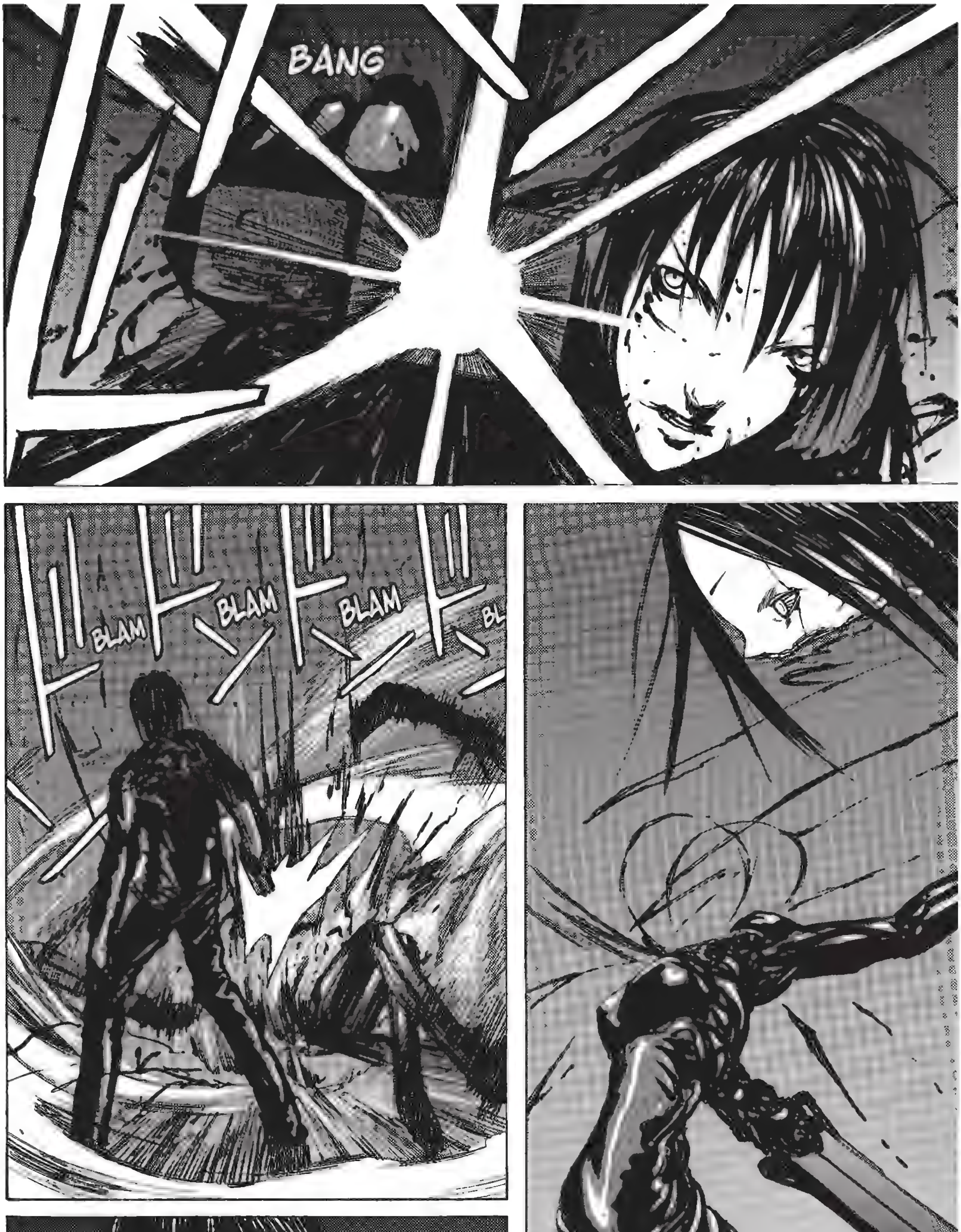

BANG
SHING
BA
BOOM

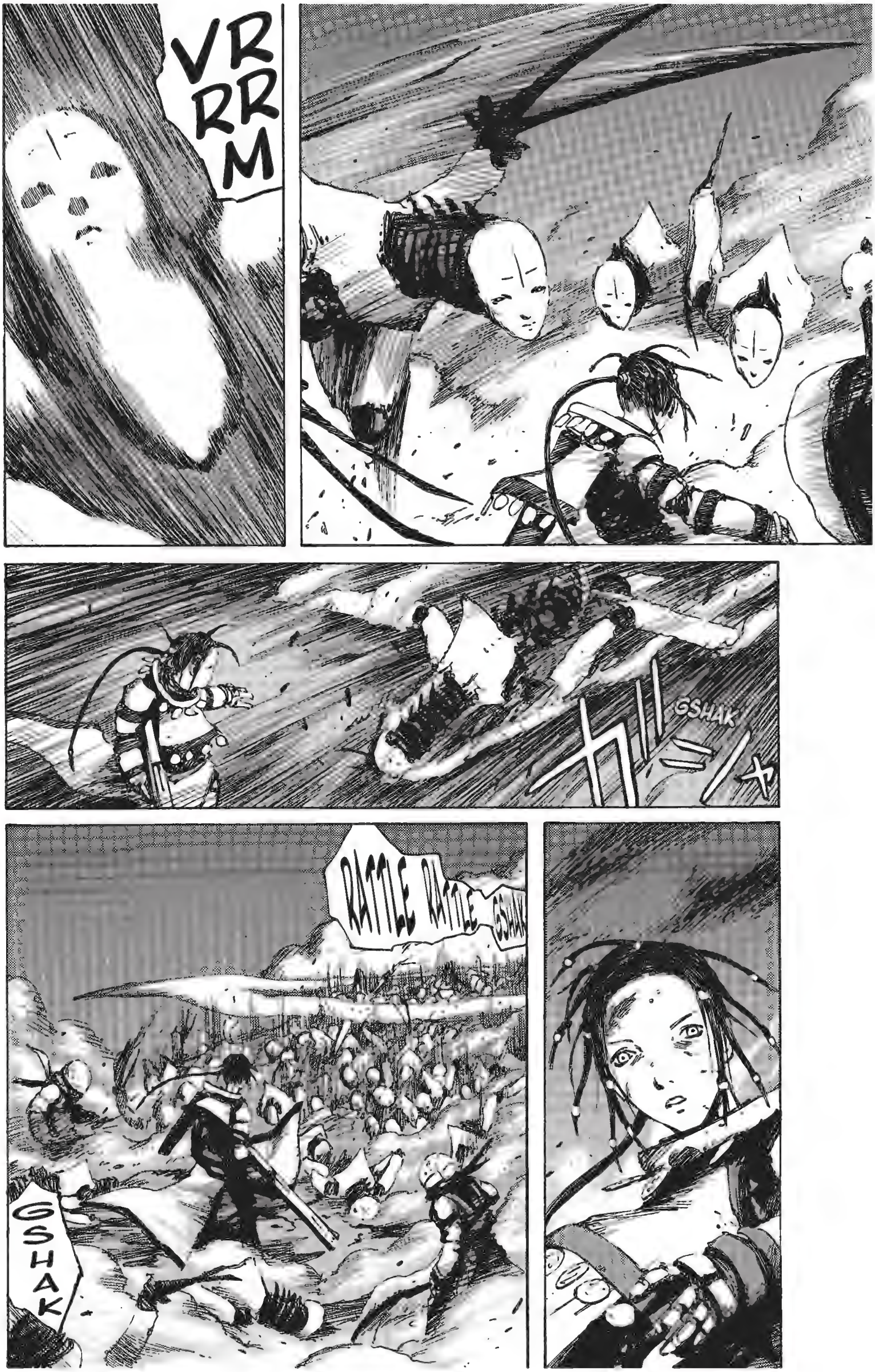

GREEM

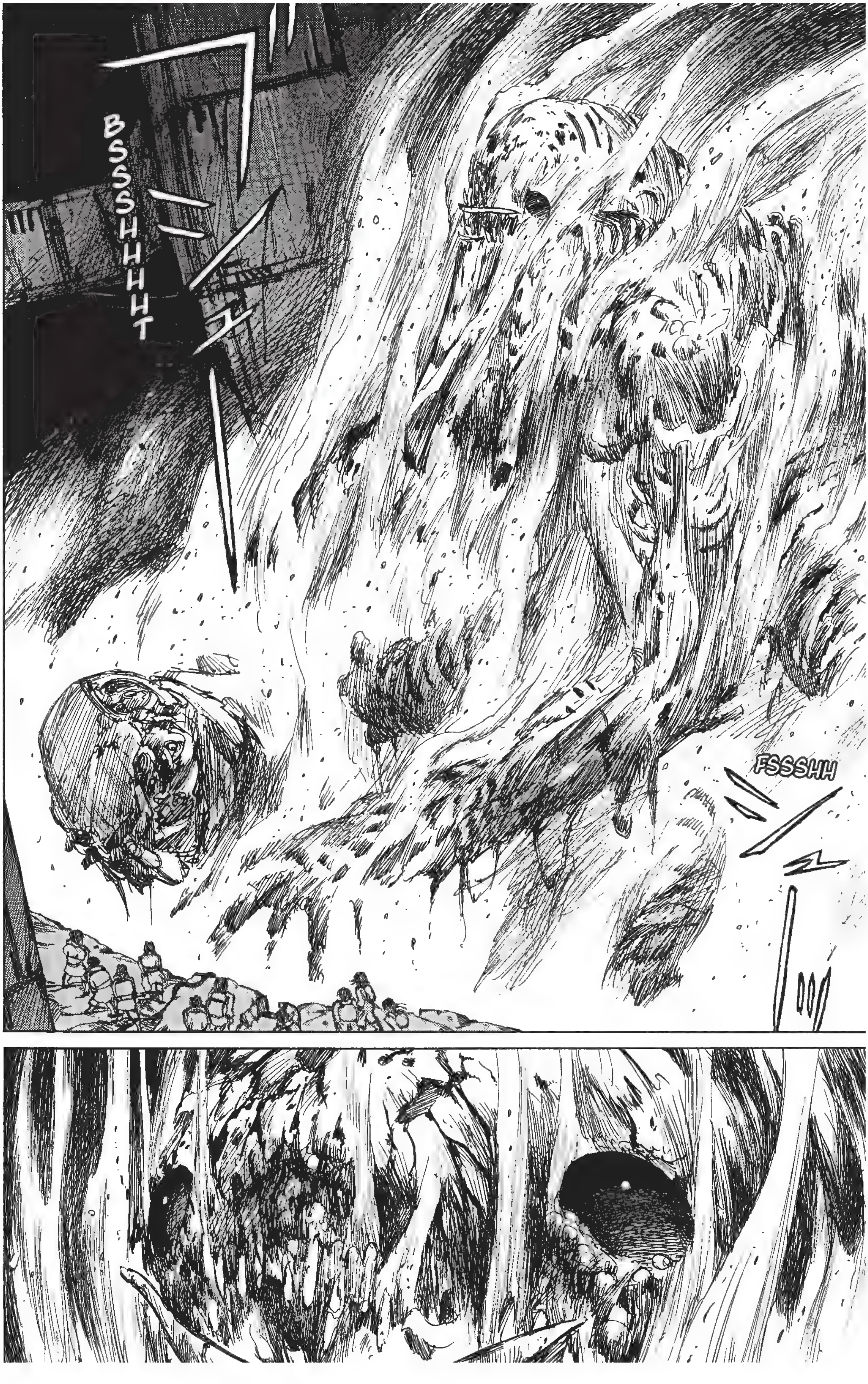

ドーン
BANG
ゴゴ
ROOOAR
ドサ
THUD

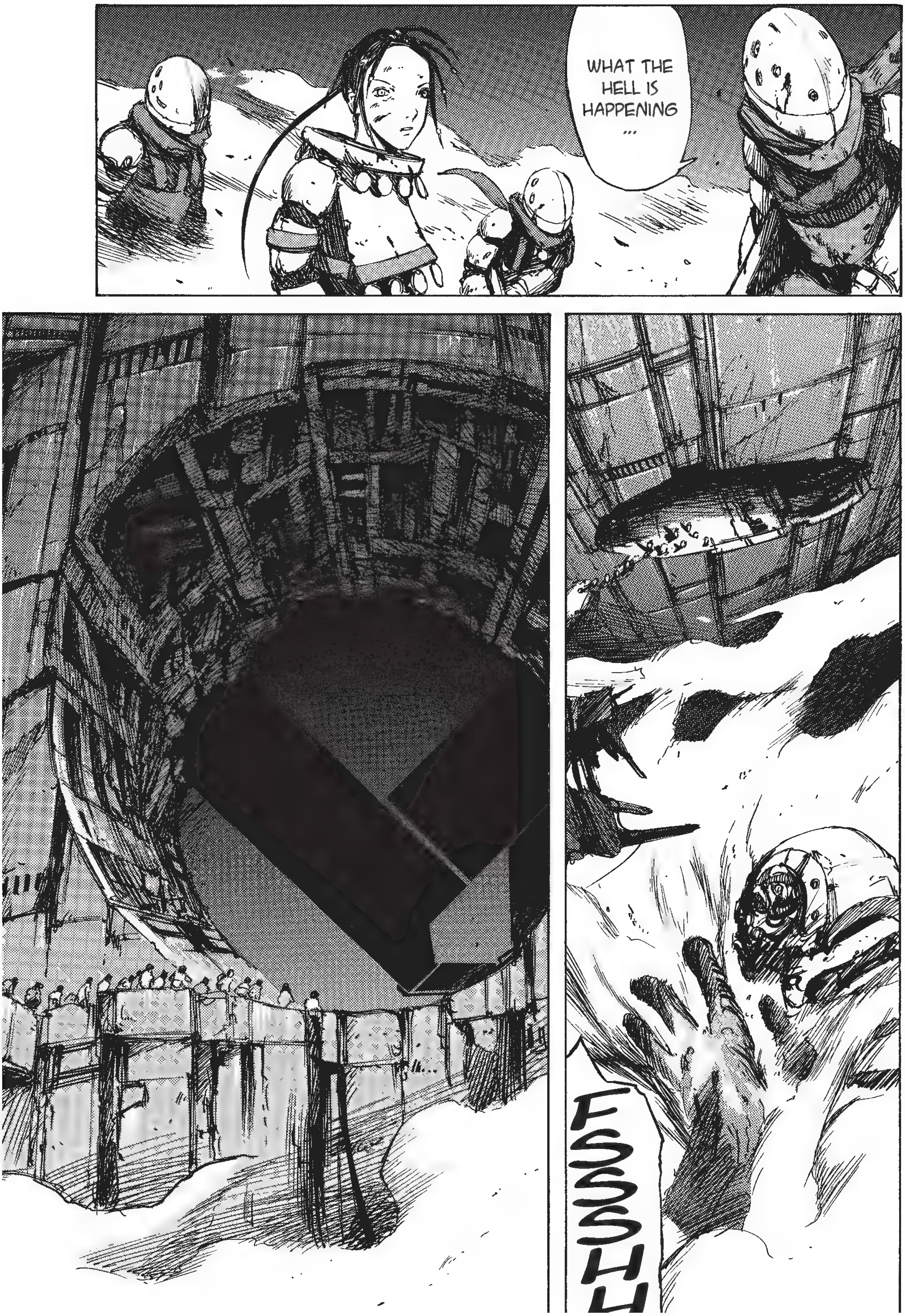

KWEEEEEEEE

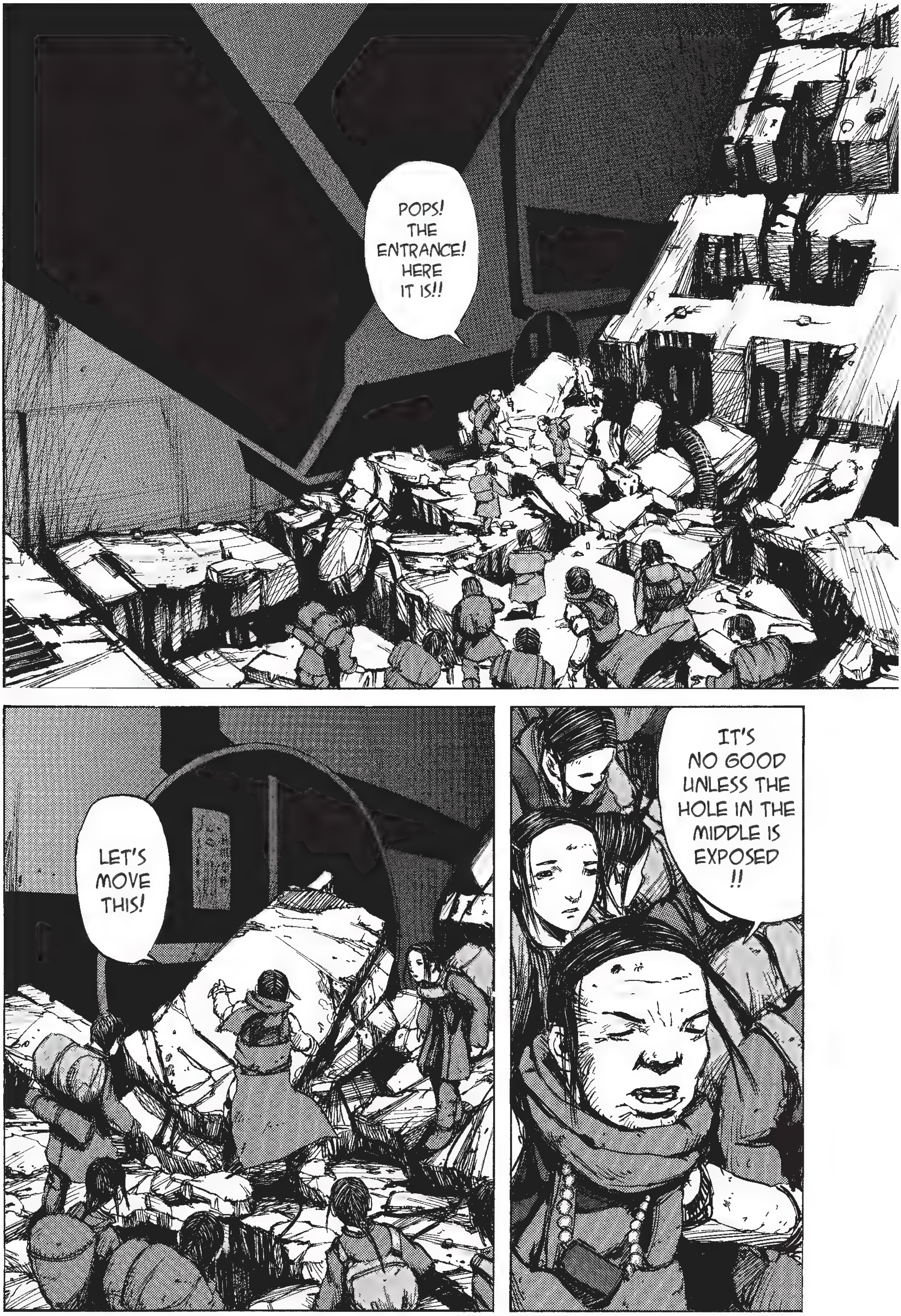

SPIN
VRRR
VRRR
VWPP
VWPP
VWPP
VWPP
VWPP

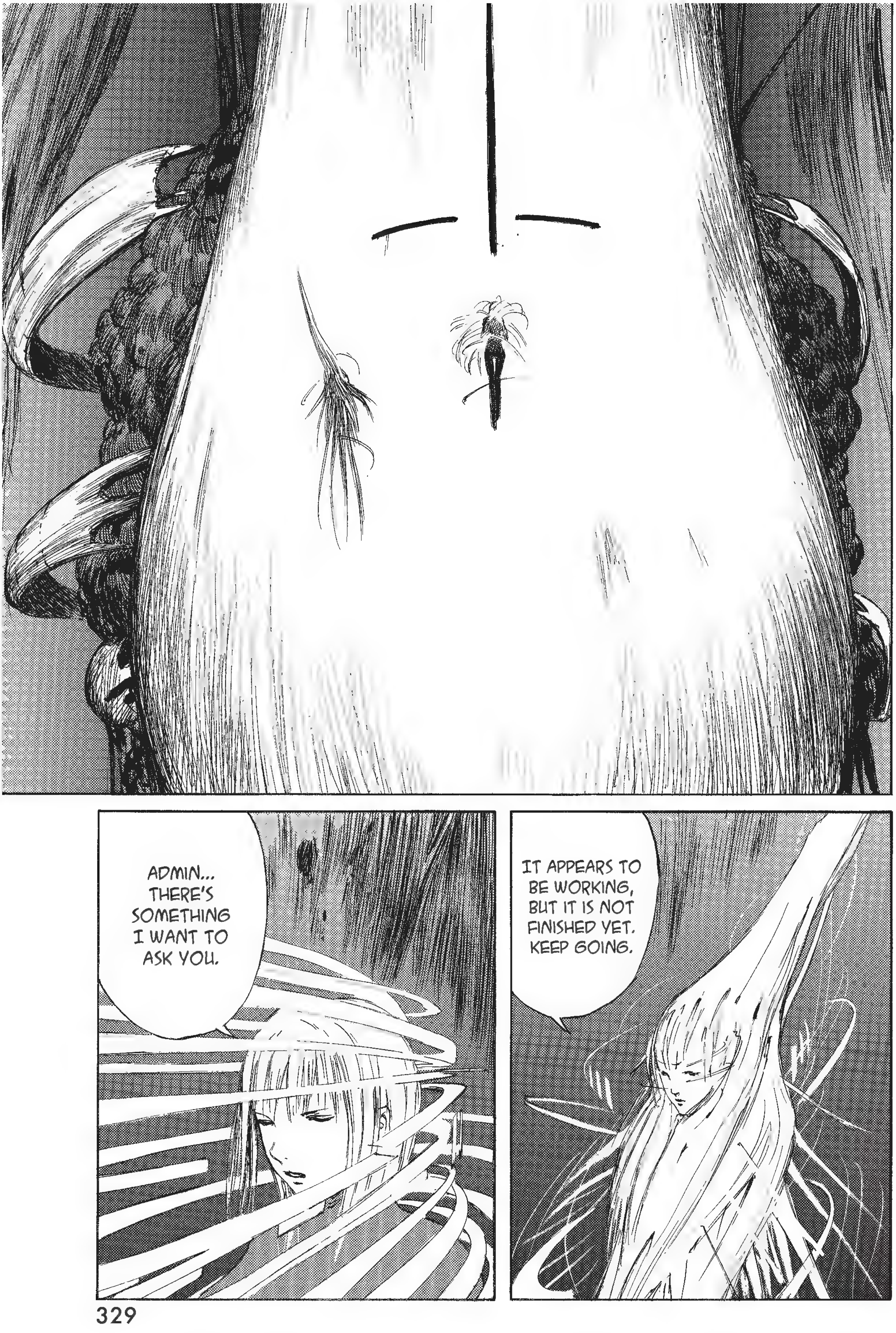

BANG
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BL

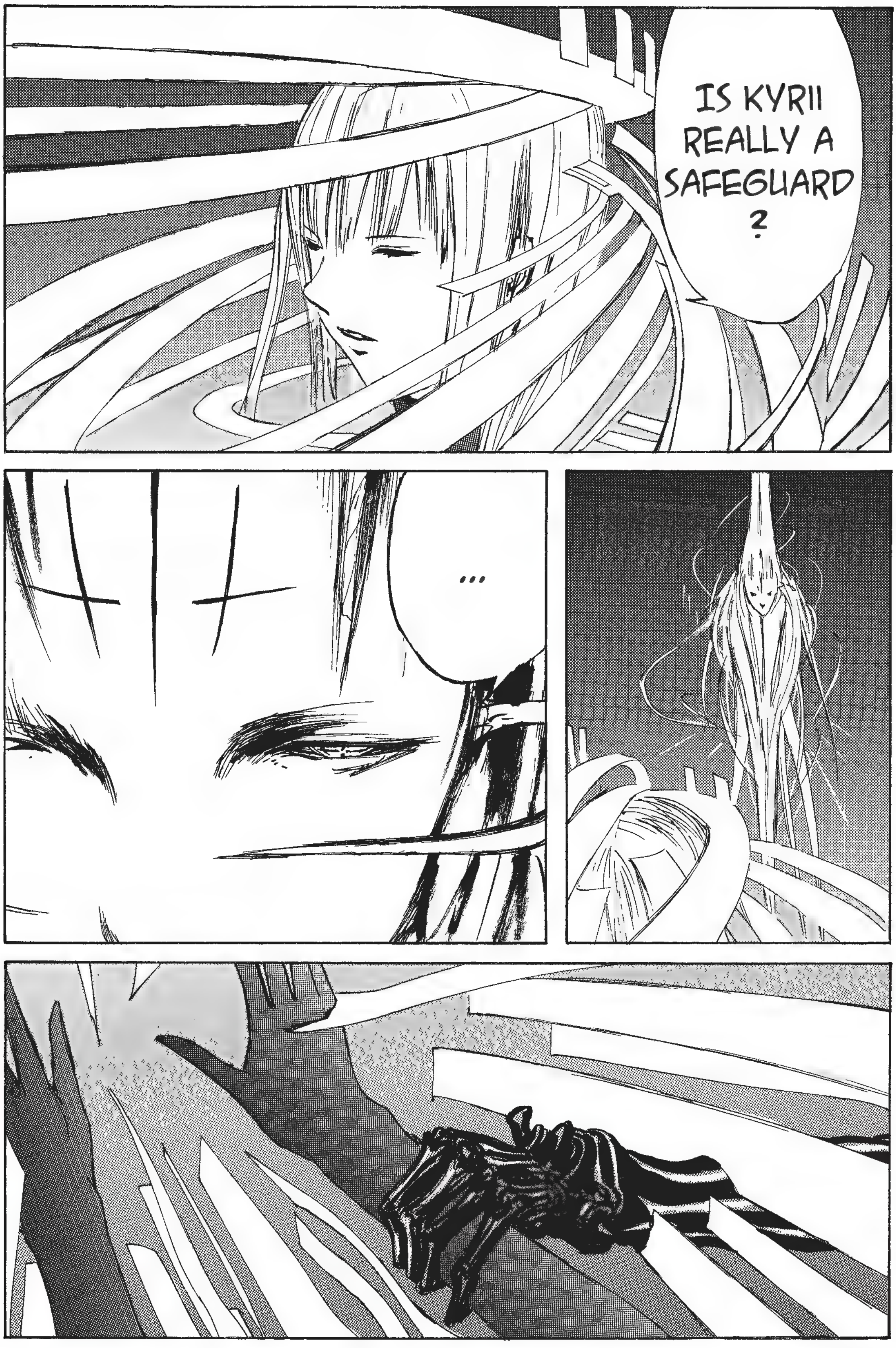

VRRRM
GSHAK
ガシャ
RATTLE RATTLE
GSHAK
GSHAK

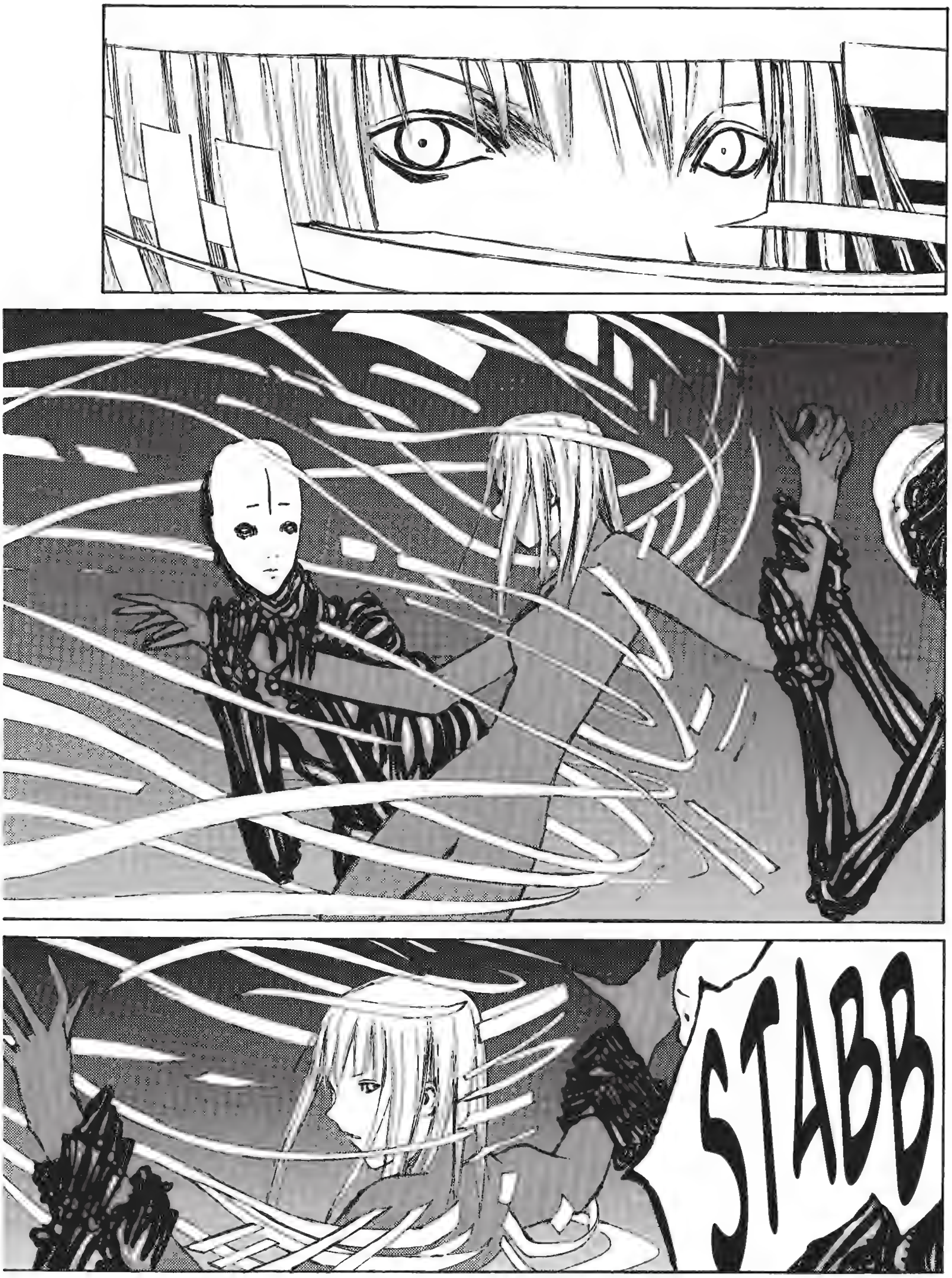

BSSSHHHHT
FSSSHH

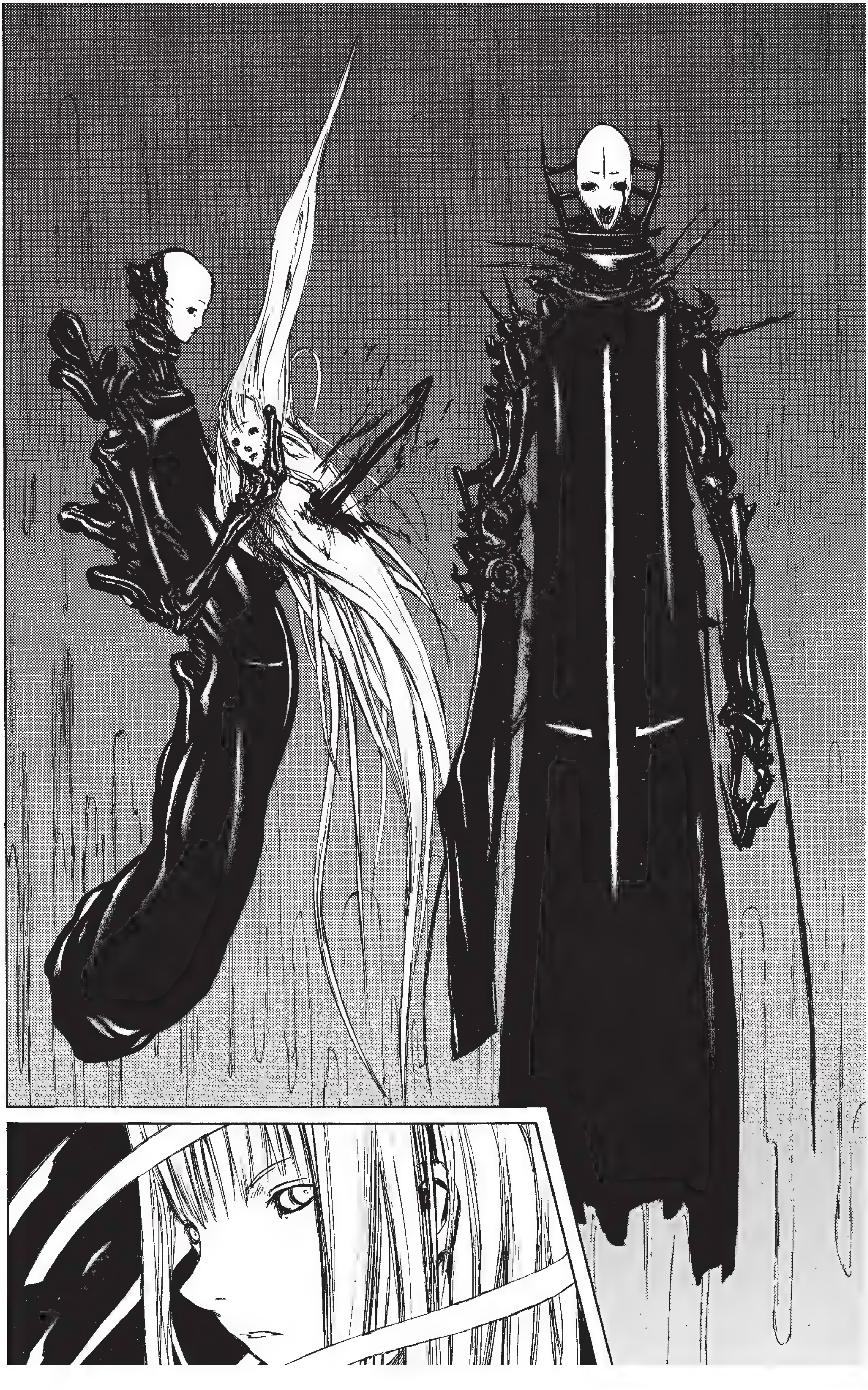

WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING ...
FSSSHU

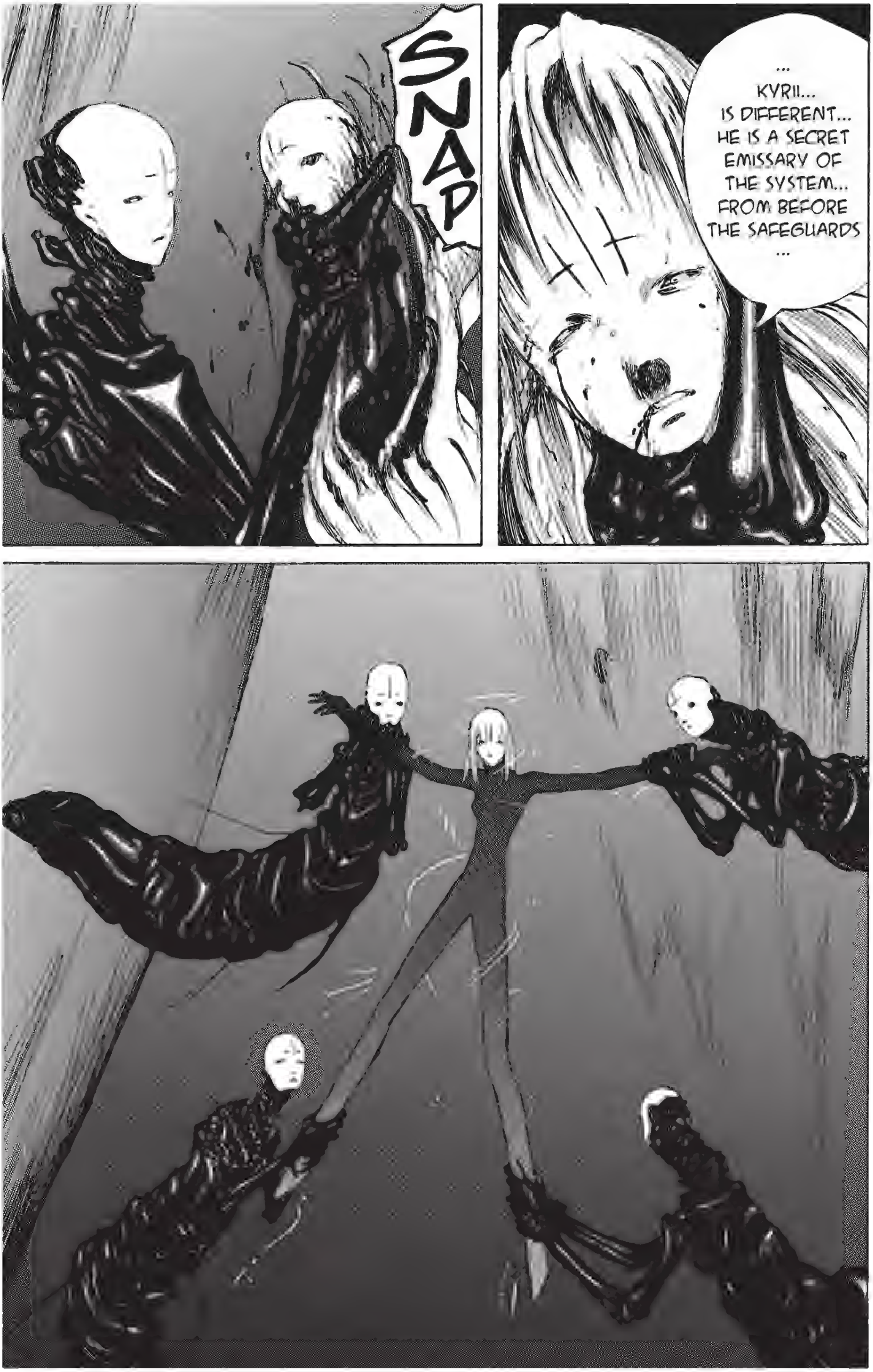

POPS! THE ENTRANCE! HERE IT IS!!
IT'S NO GOOD UNLESS THE HOLE IN THE MIDDLE IS EXPOSED!!
LET'S MOVE THIS!

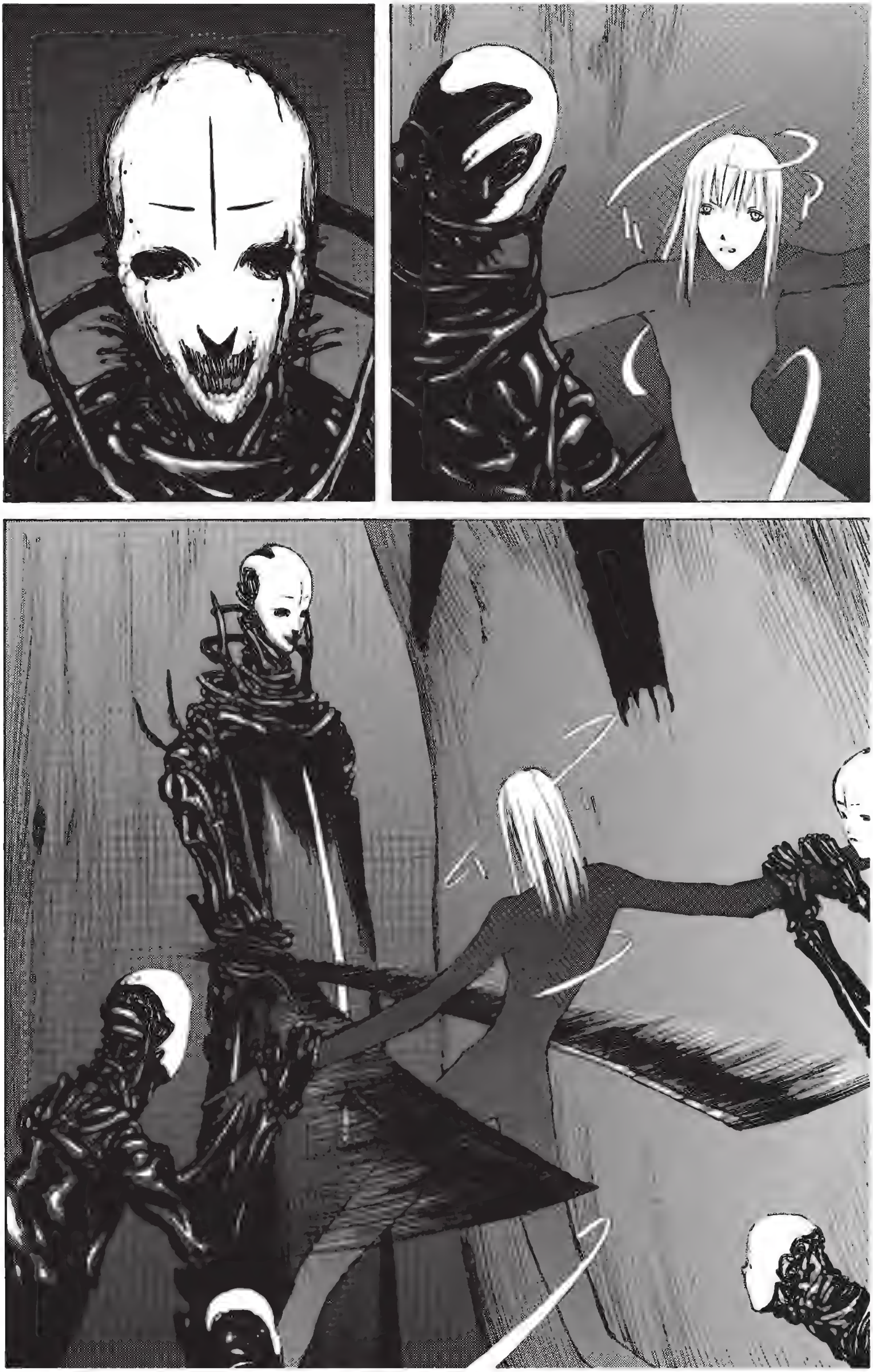

IT APPEARS TO BE WORKING, BUT IT IS NOT FINISHED YET. KEEP GOING.
ADMIN... THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU.

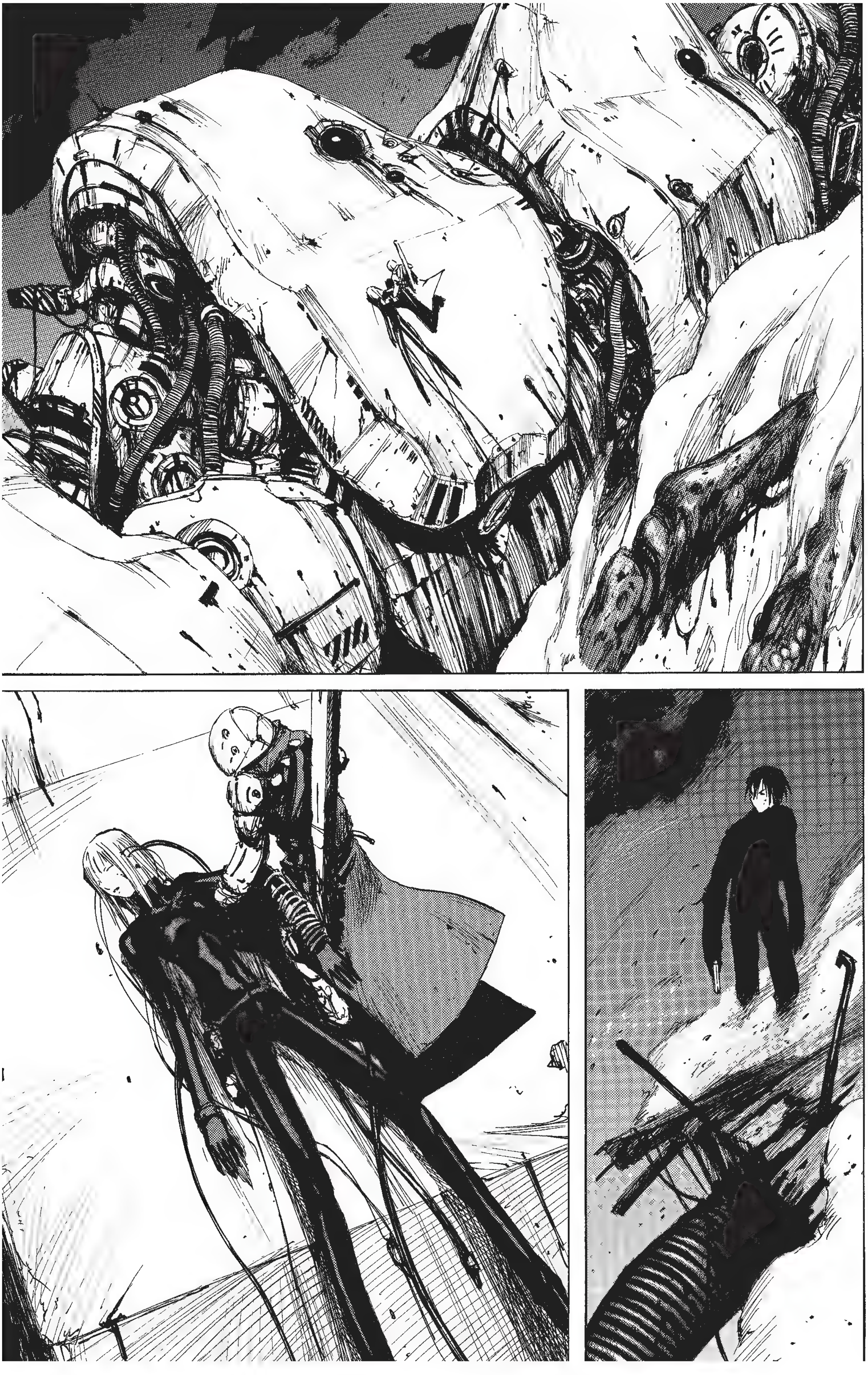

IS KYRII REALLY A SAFEGUARD ?
...

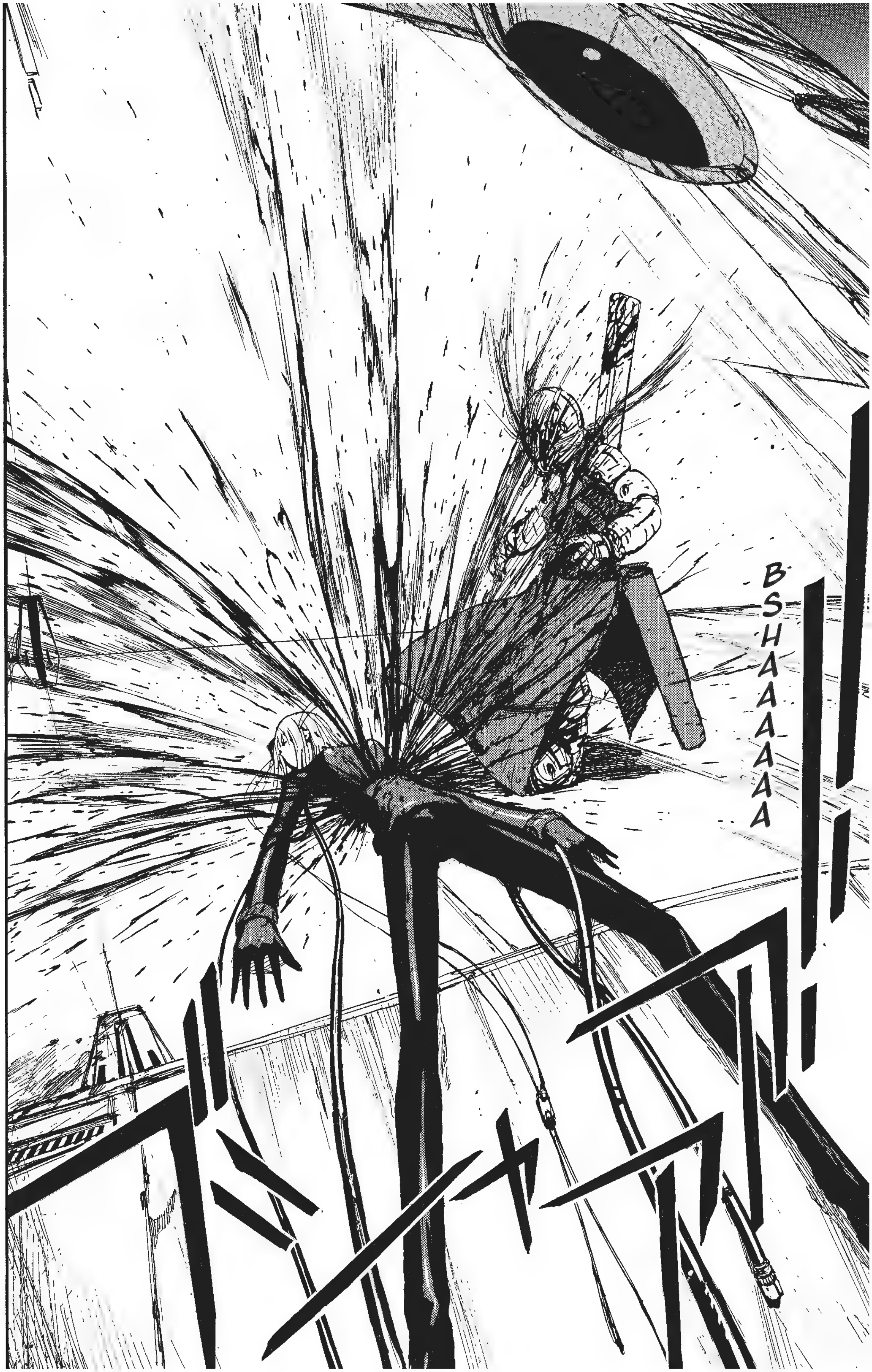

STABB

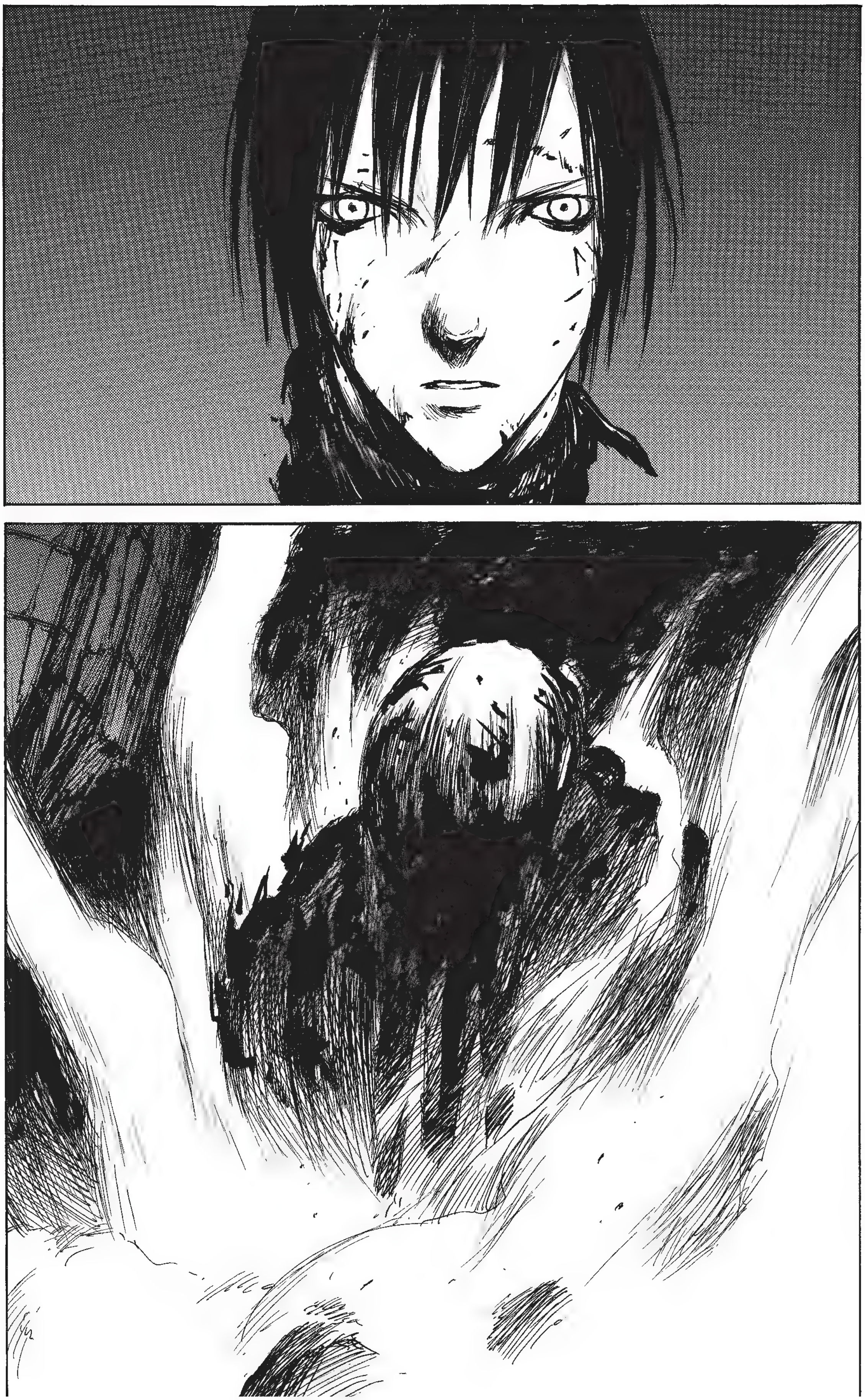


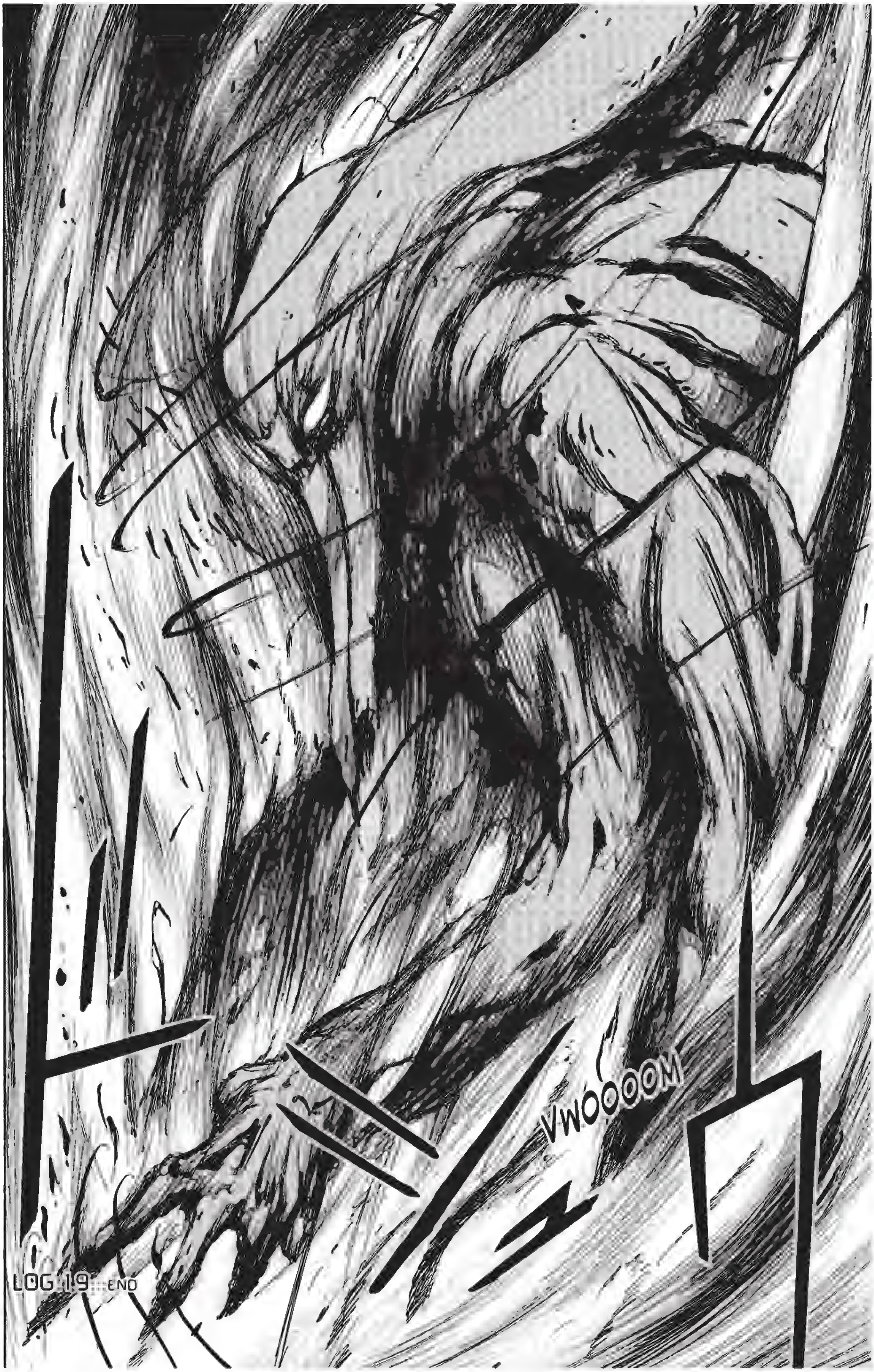

... KYRII... IS DIFFERENT... HE IS A SECRET EMISSARY OF THE SYSTEM... FROM BEFORE THE SAFEGUARDS ...
SNAP

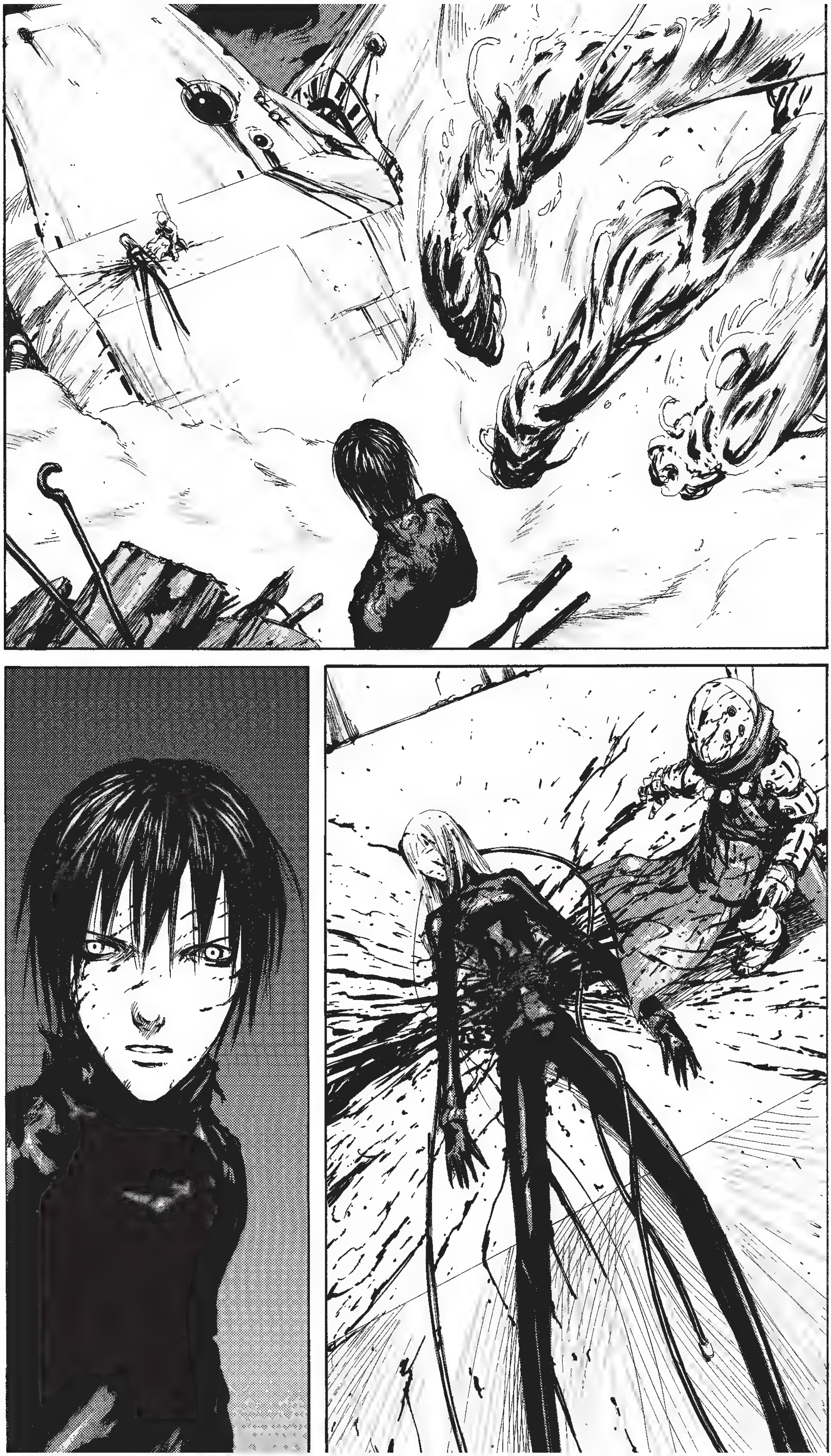


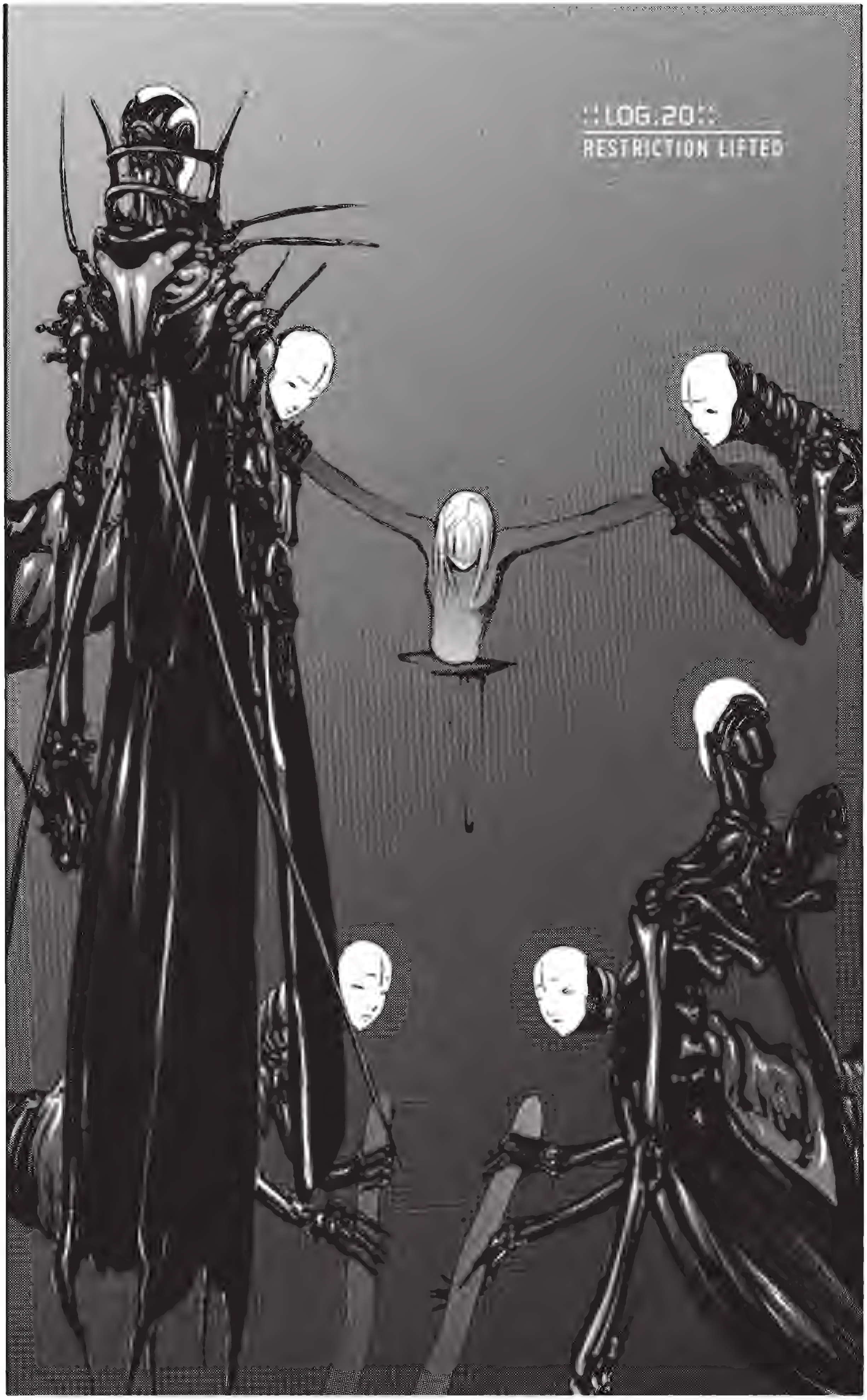



BSHAAAAAAA
ドシャアッ!!



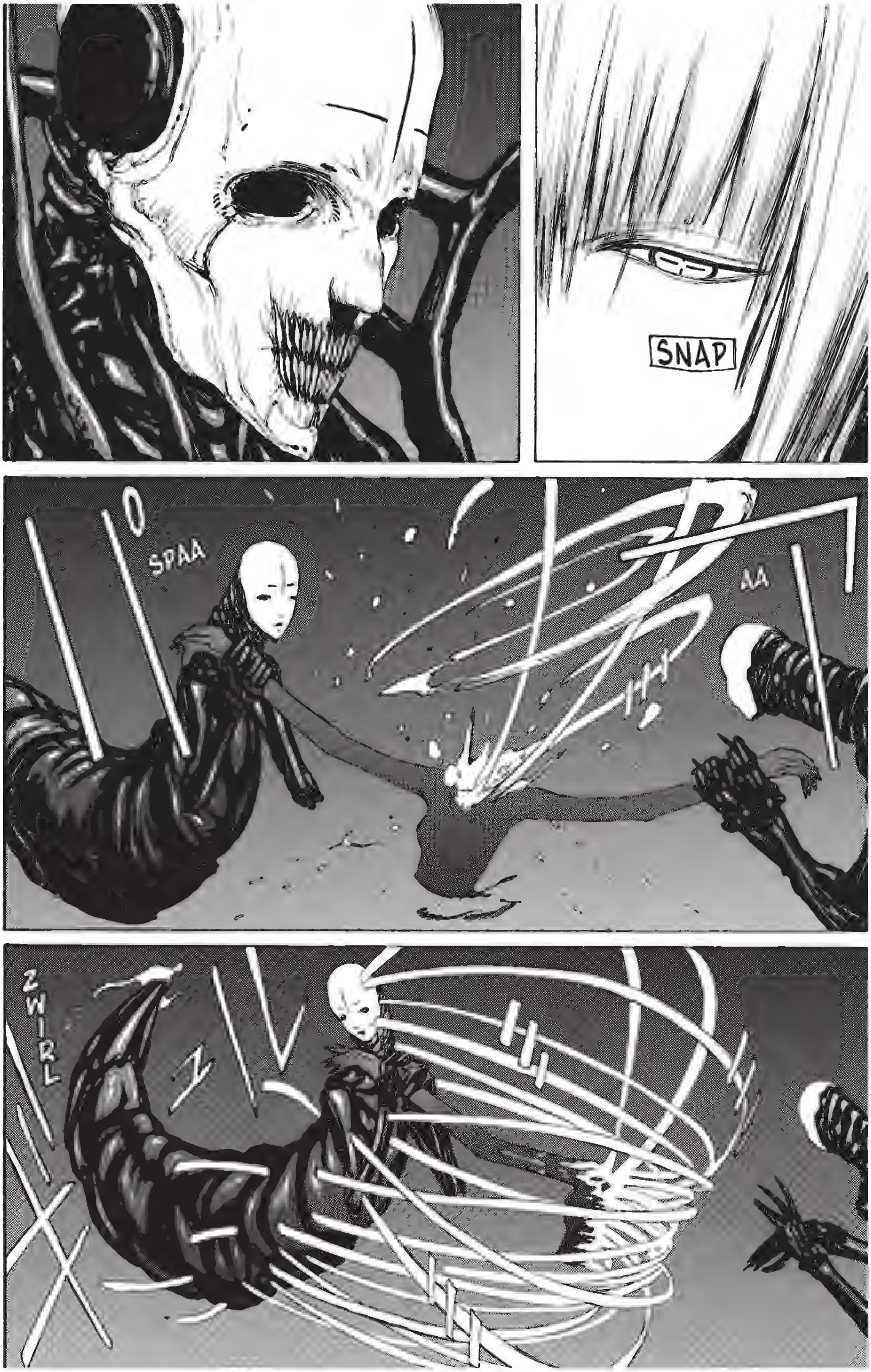

VWOOOOM
LOG:19:::END

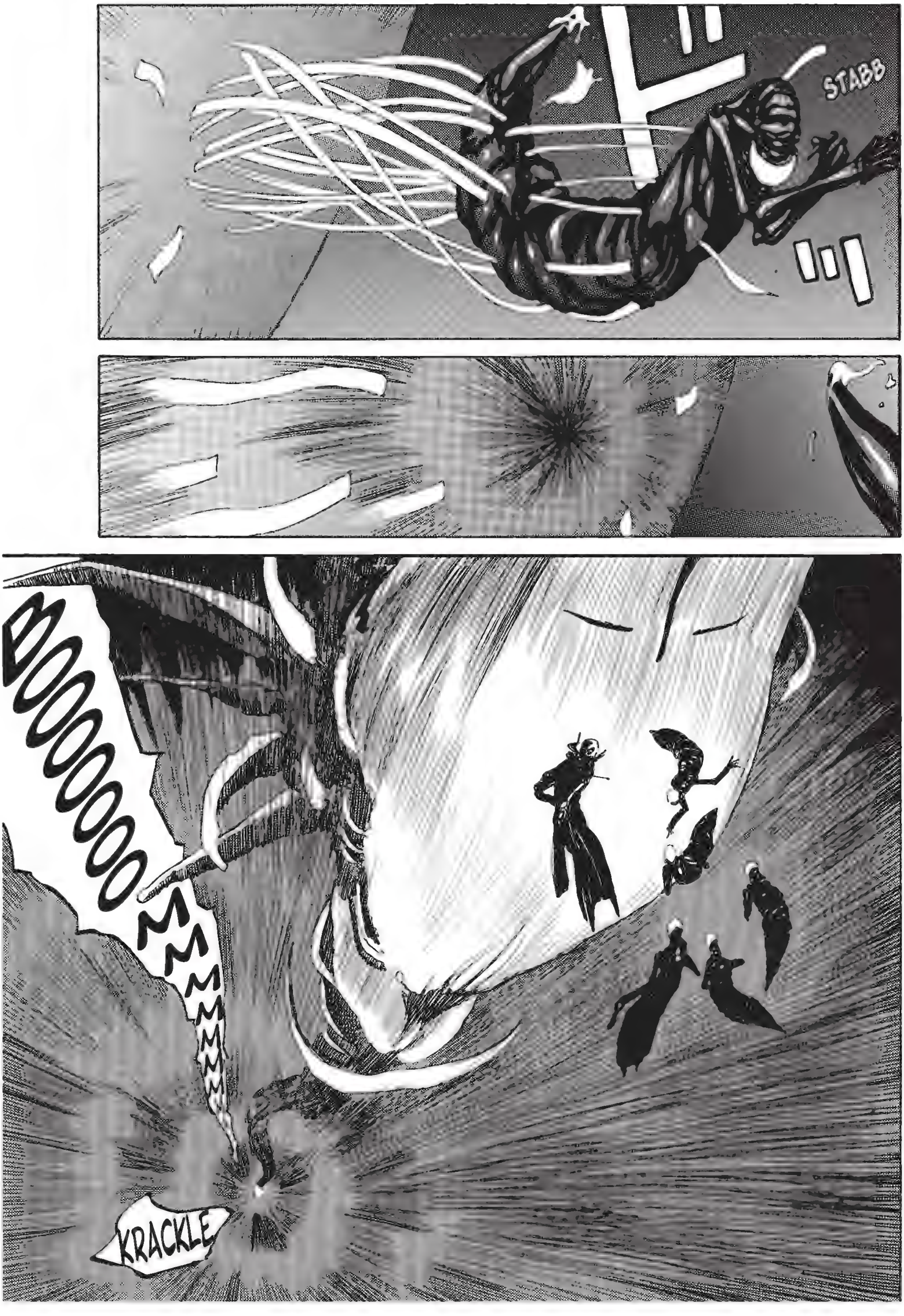


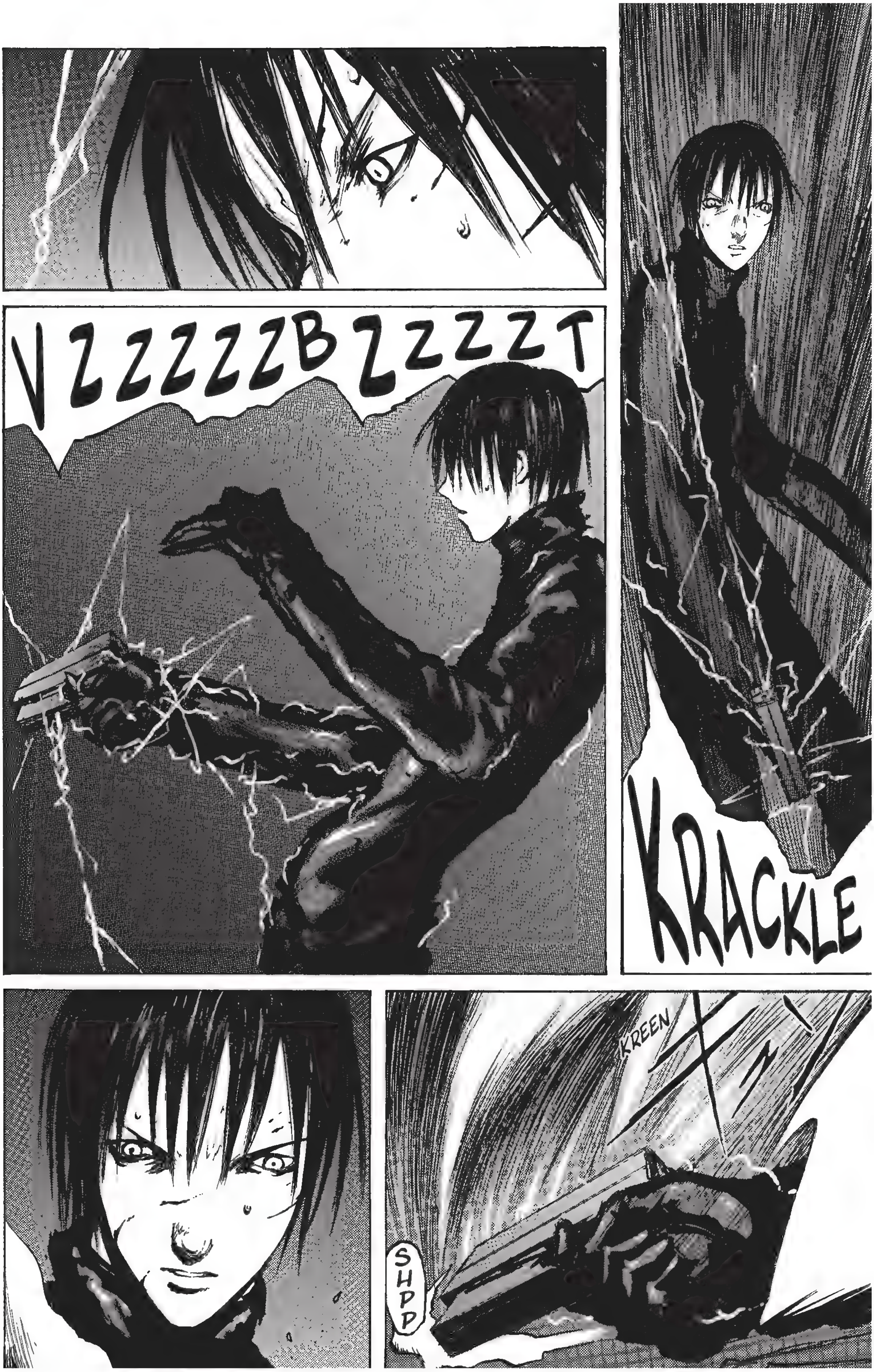


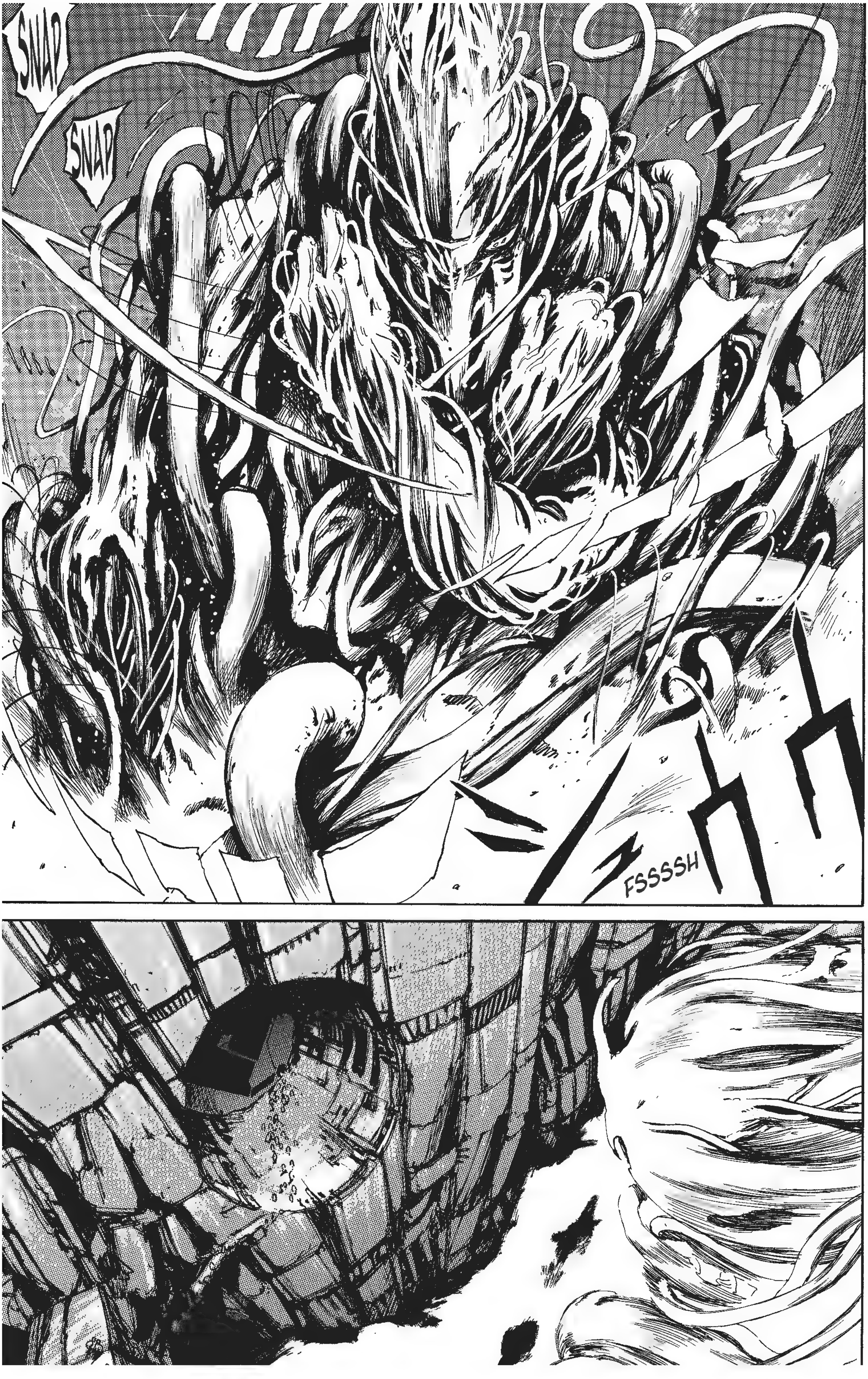
::LOG.20::

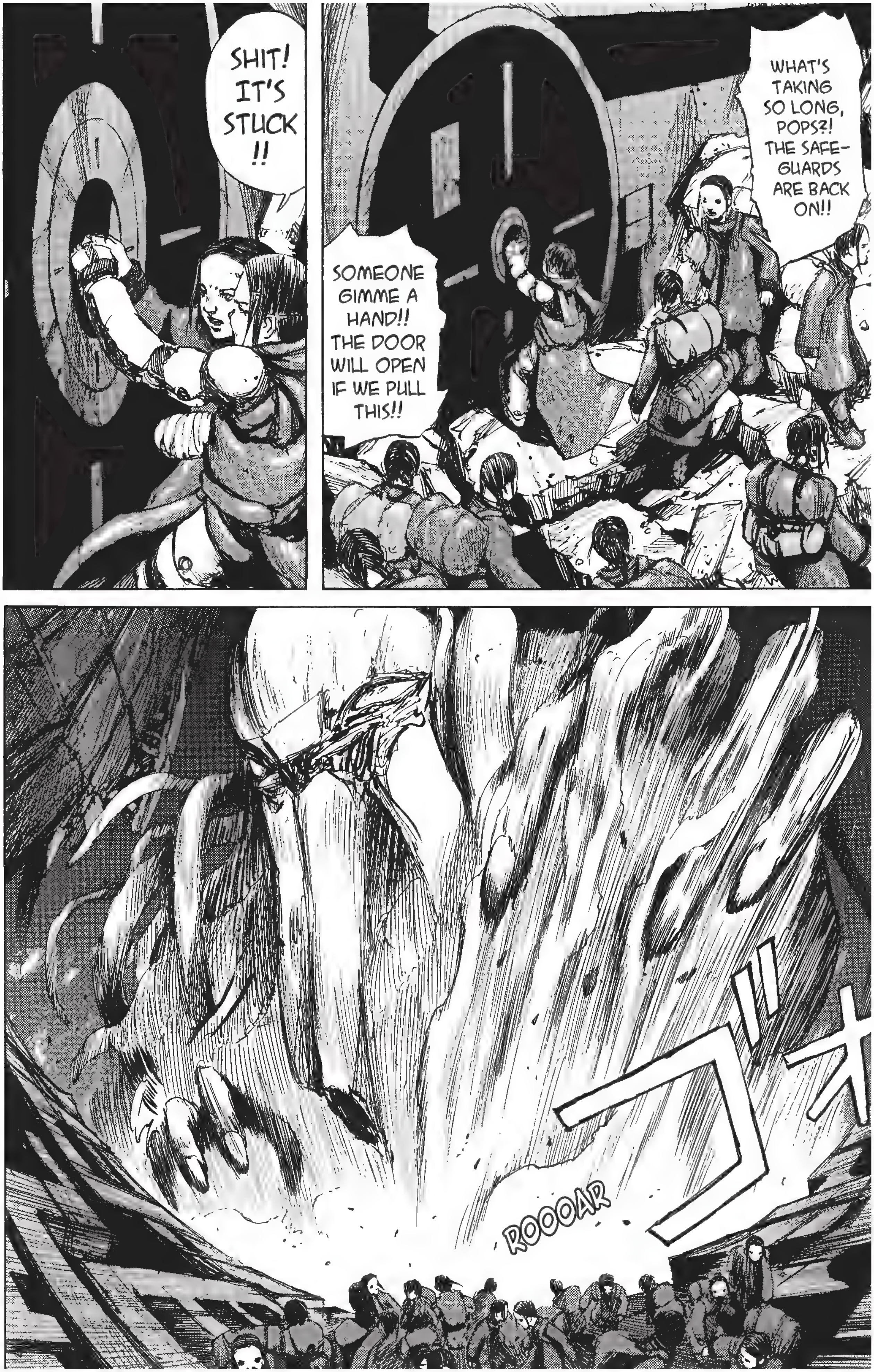
RESTRICTION LIFTED

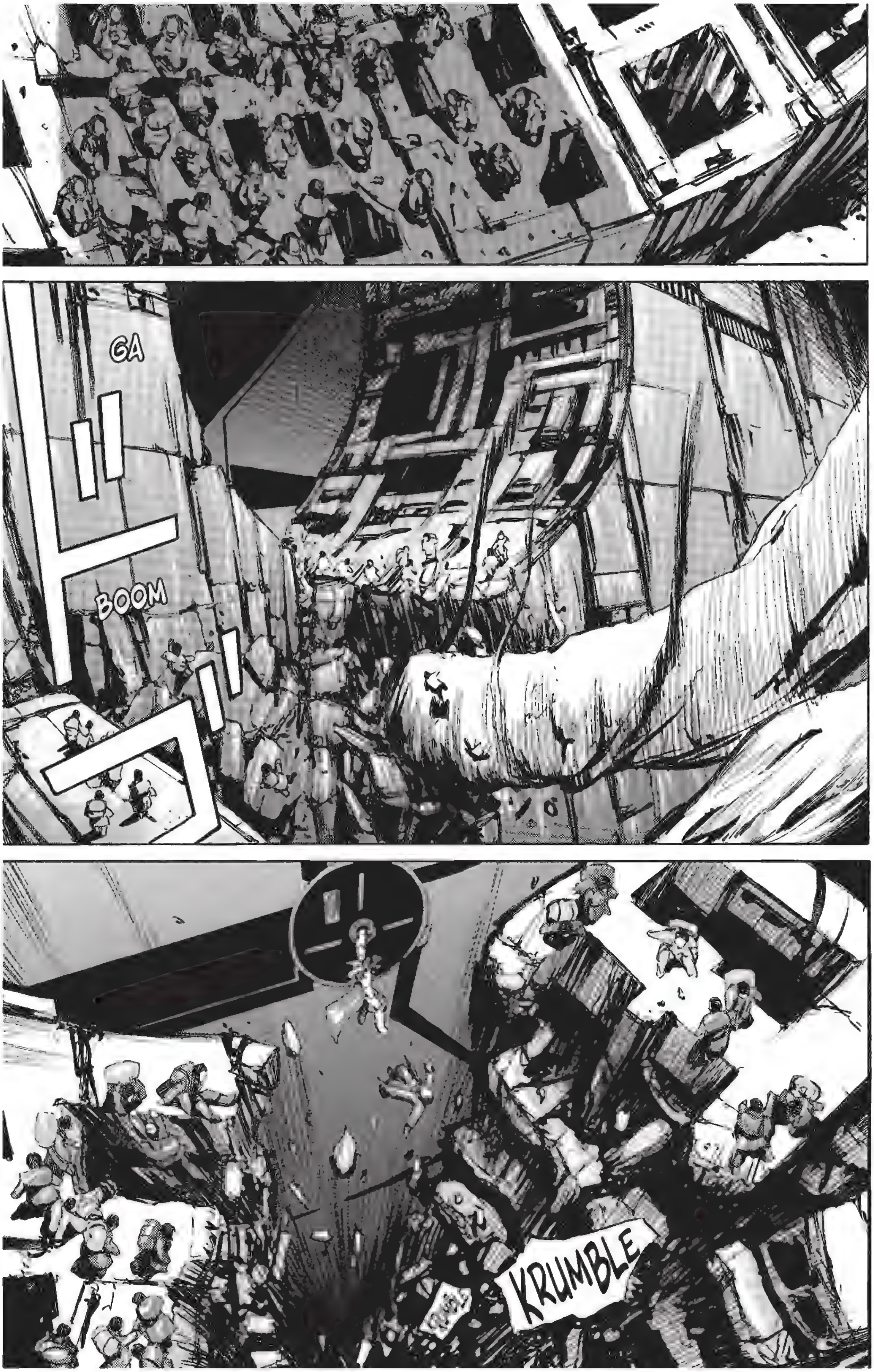

SNAP
SPAA
AA
ZWIRL

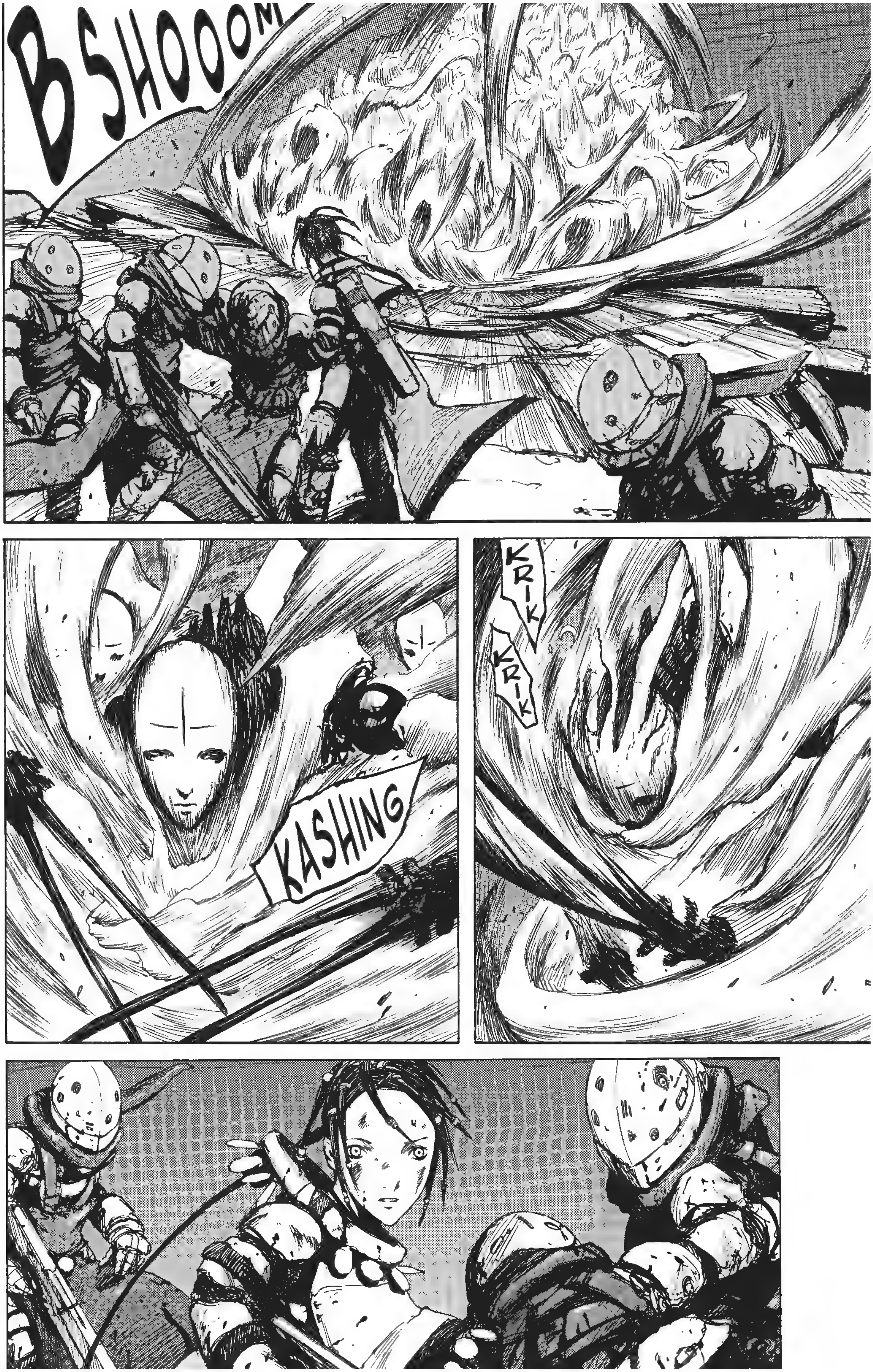

ドッ
STABB
BOOOOOOOMMMMMMM
KRACKLE

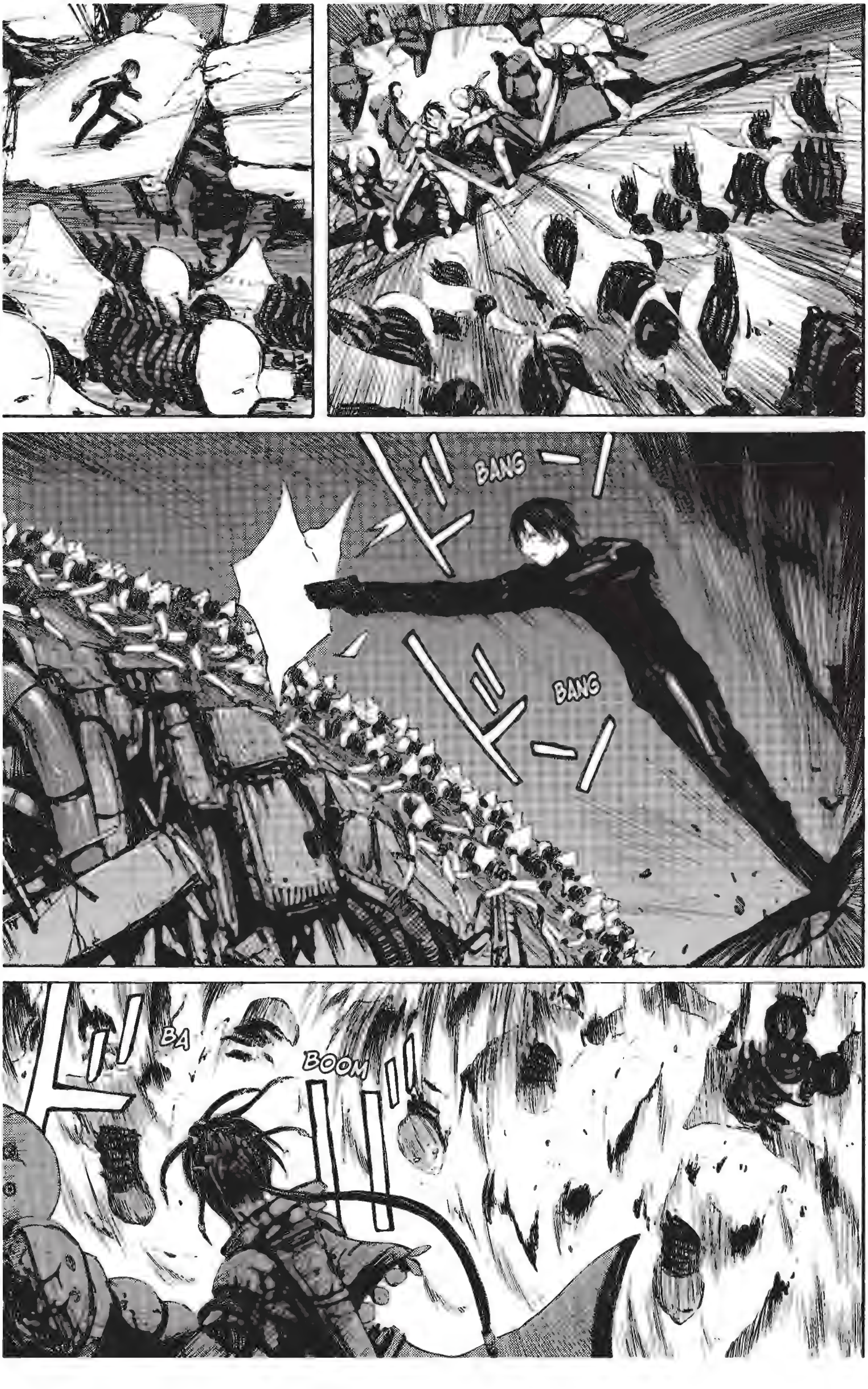

KRACKLE
VZZZZZBZZZZT
KREEN
SHPP

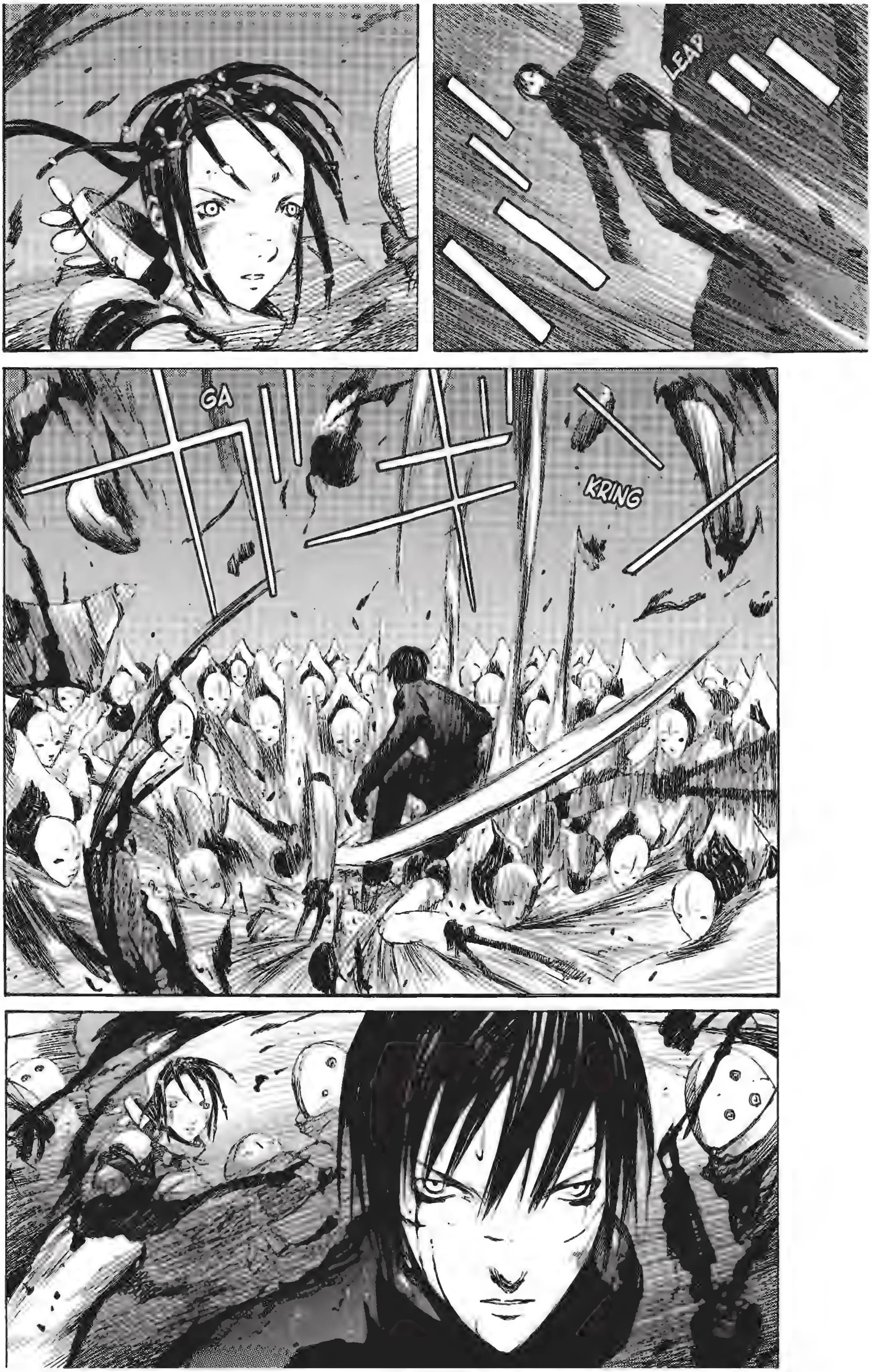

SNAP
SNAP
FSSSSH

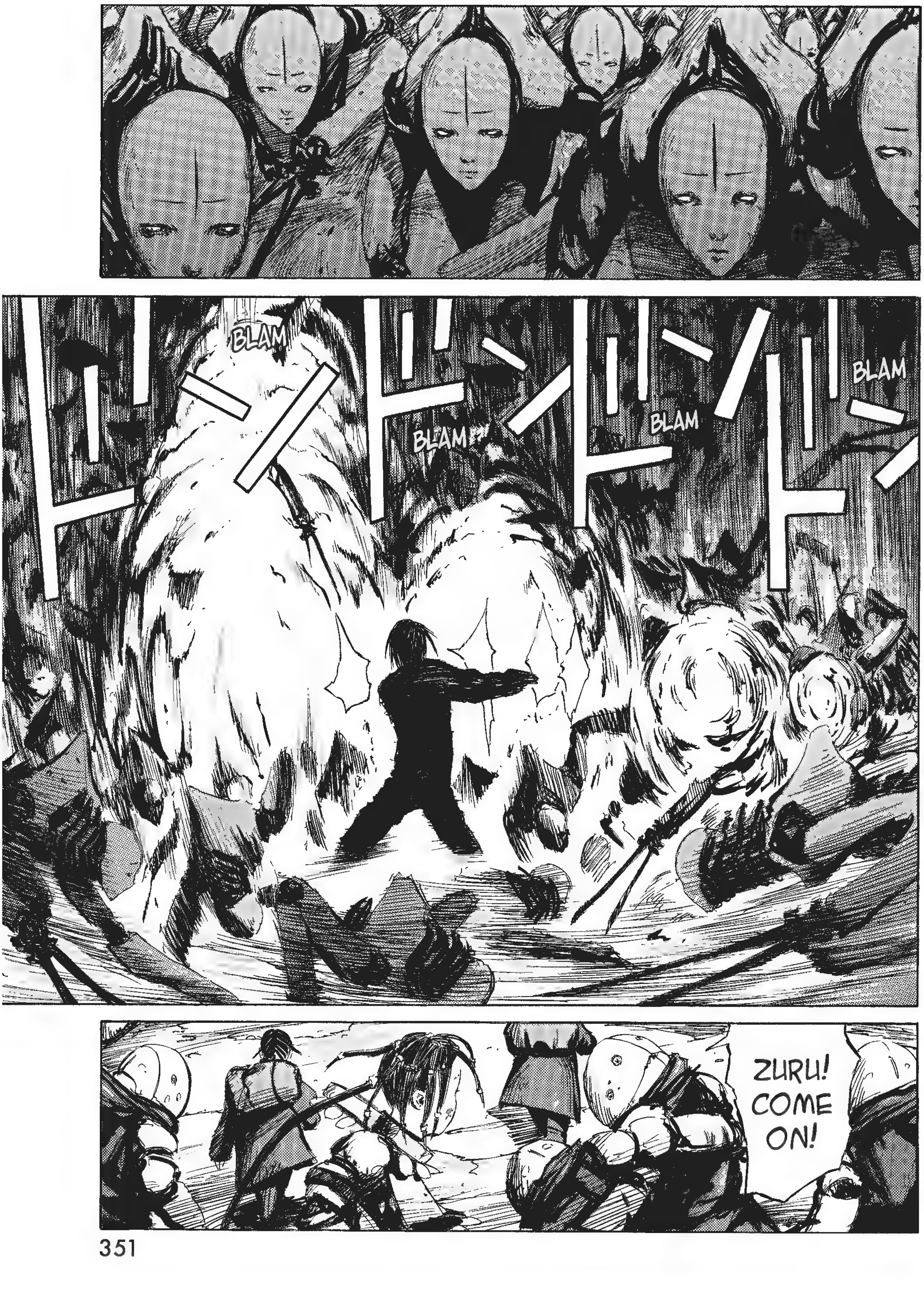

SHIT! IT'S STUCK!!
SOMEONE GIMME A HAND!! THE DOOR WILL OPEN IF WE PULL THIS!!
WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG, POPS?! THE SAFE-GUARDS ARE BACK ON!!
ゴオ
ROOOAR

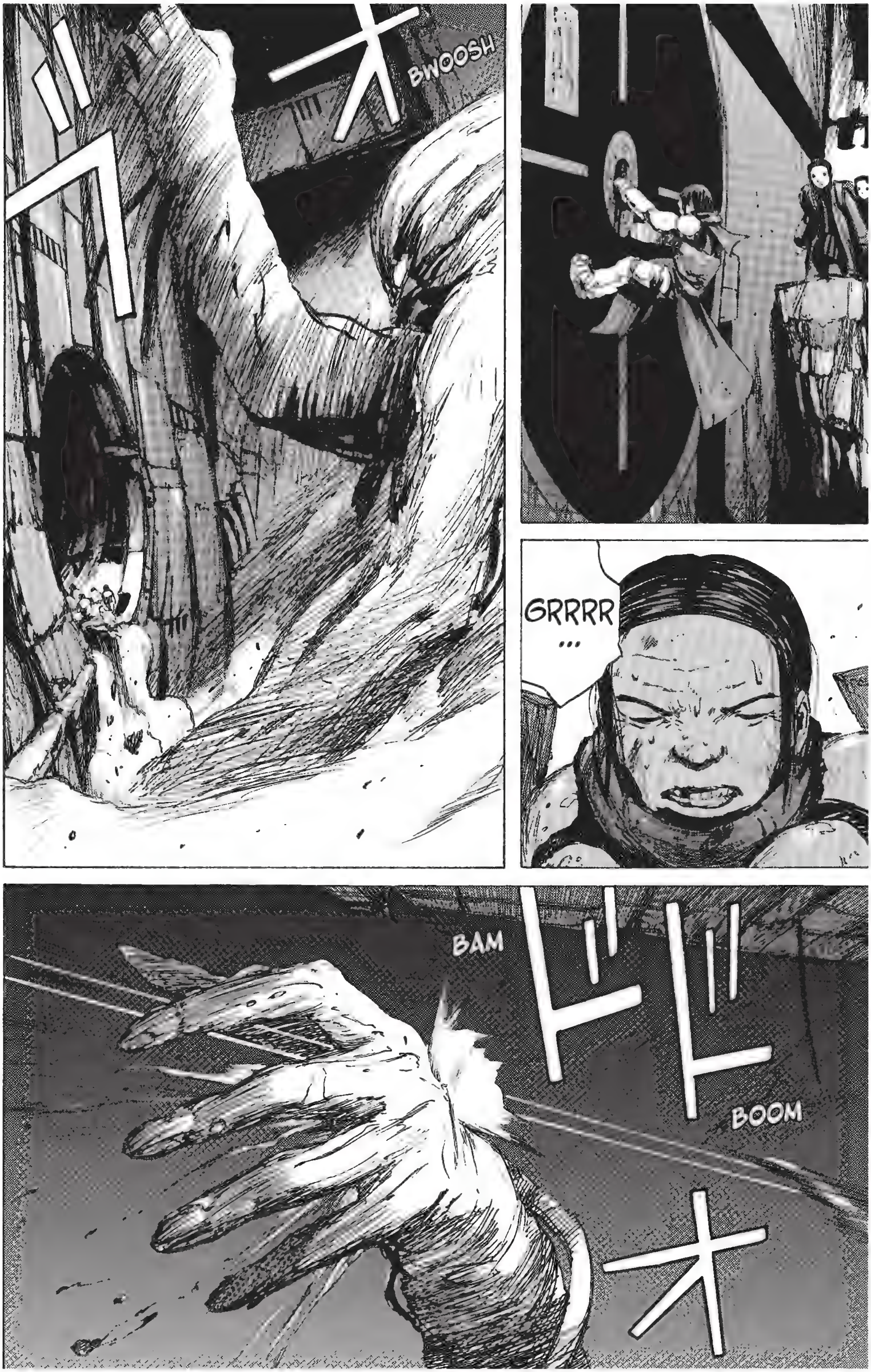

GA
BOOM
KRUMBLE

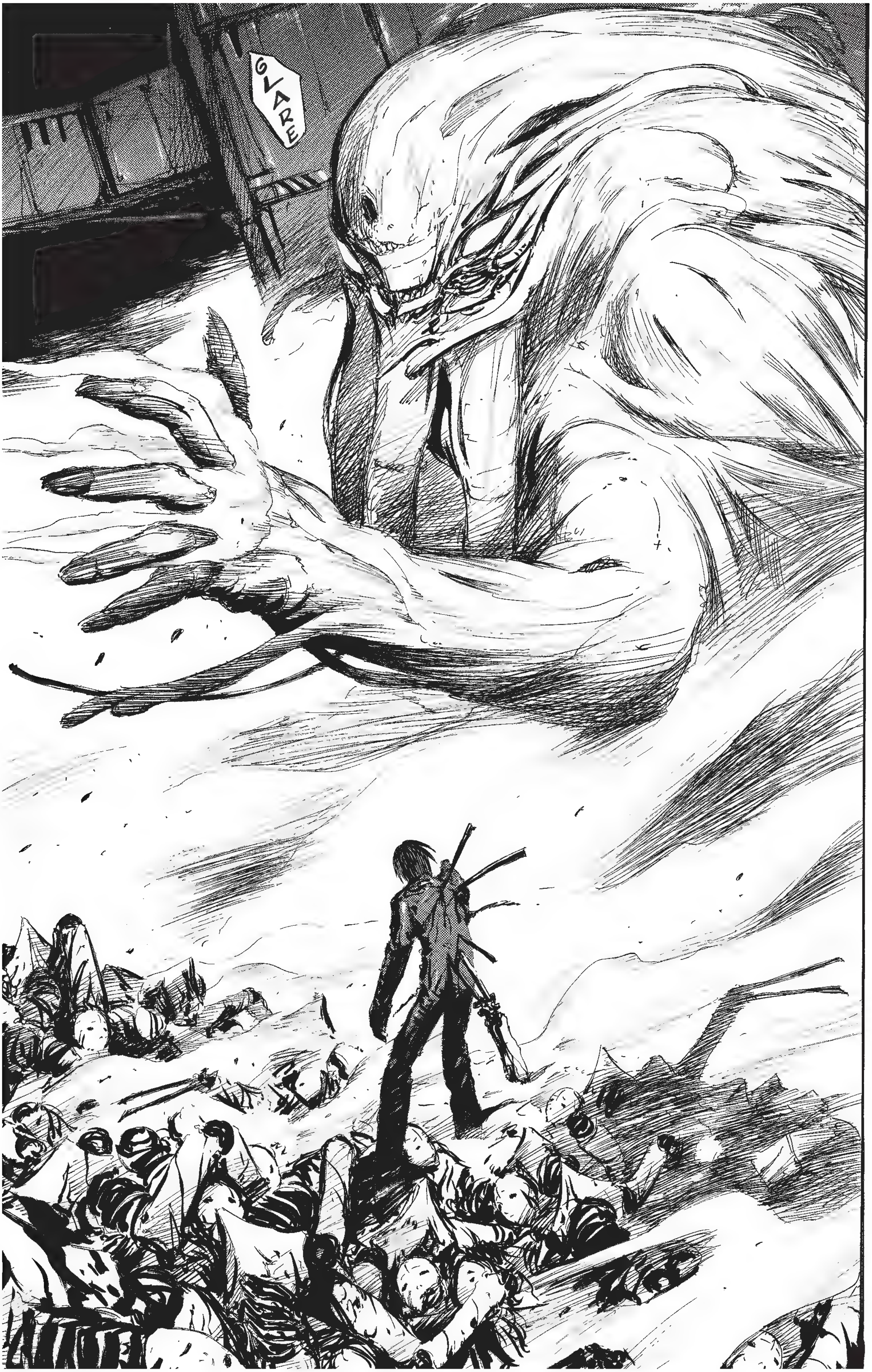

BSHOOOM
KRIK
KRIK
KASHING

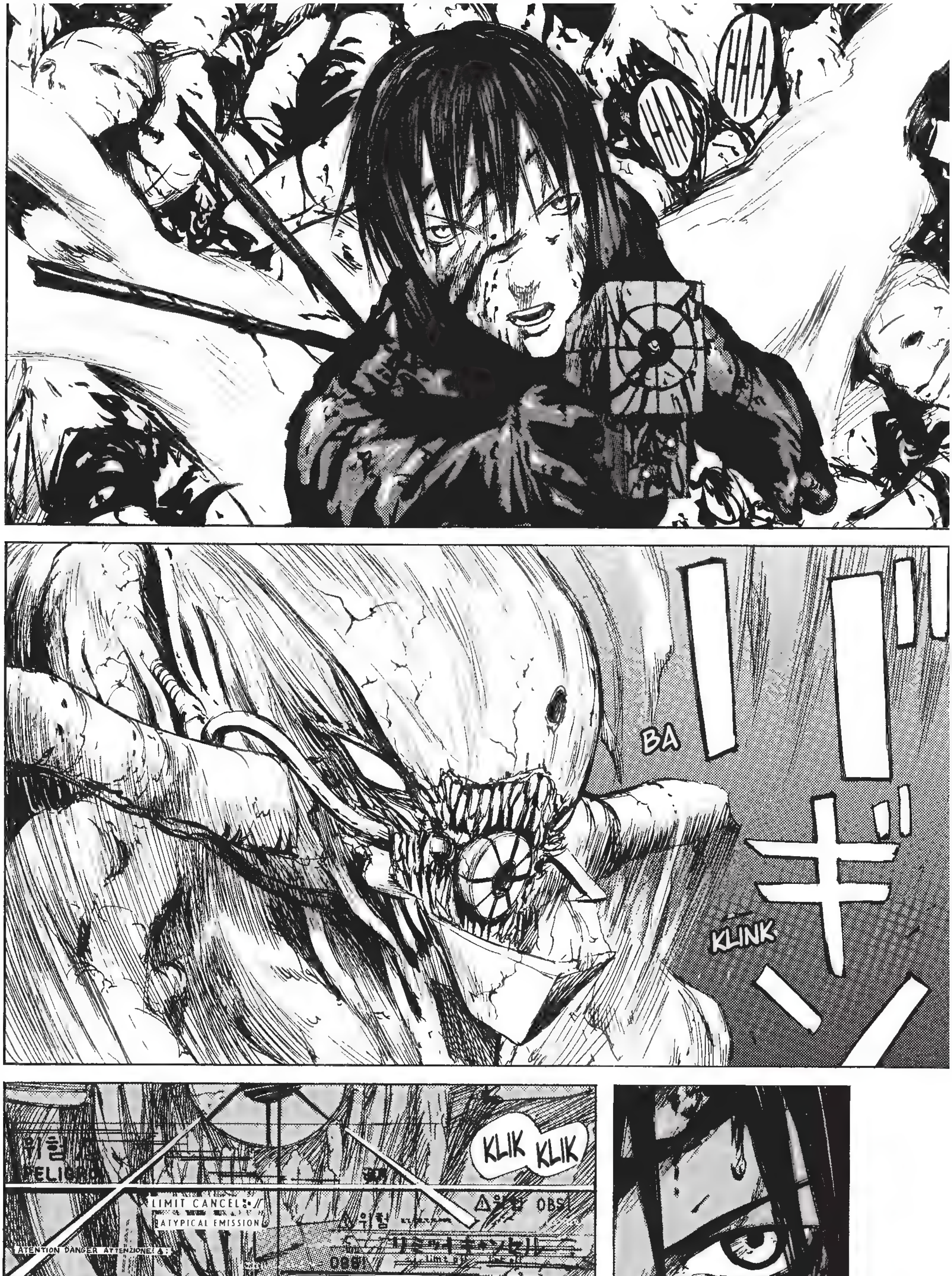

BANG
BANG
BA
BOOM

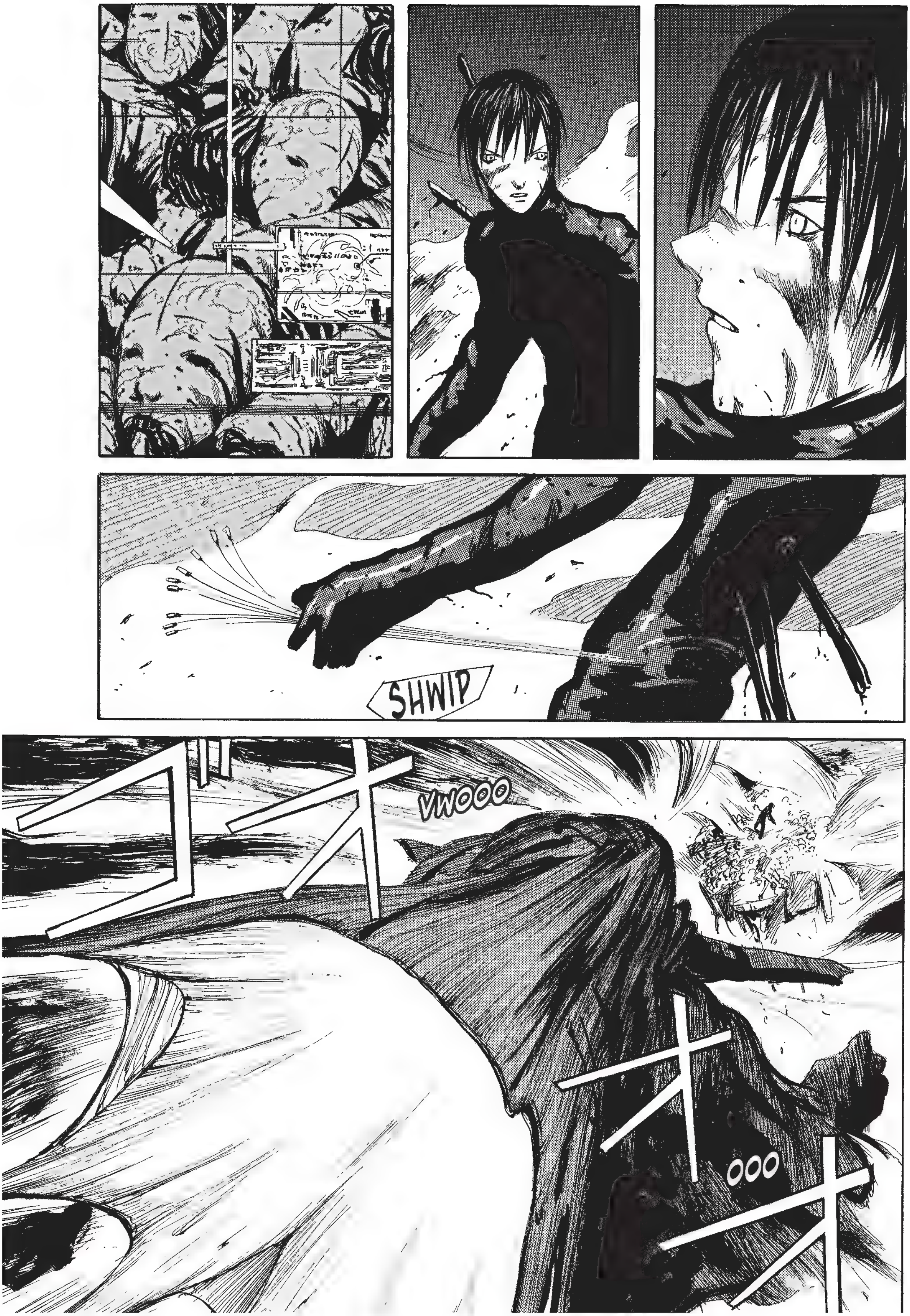

LEAP
KRING
GA

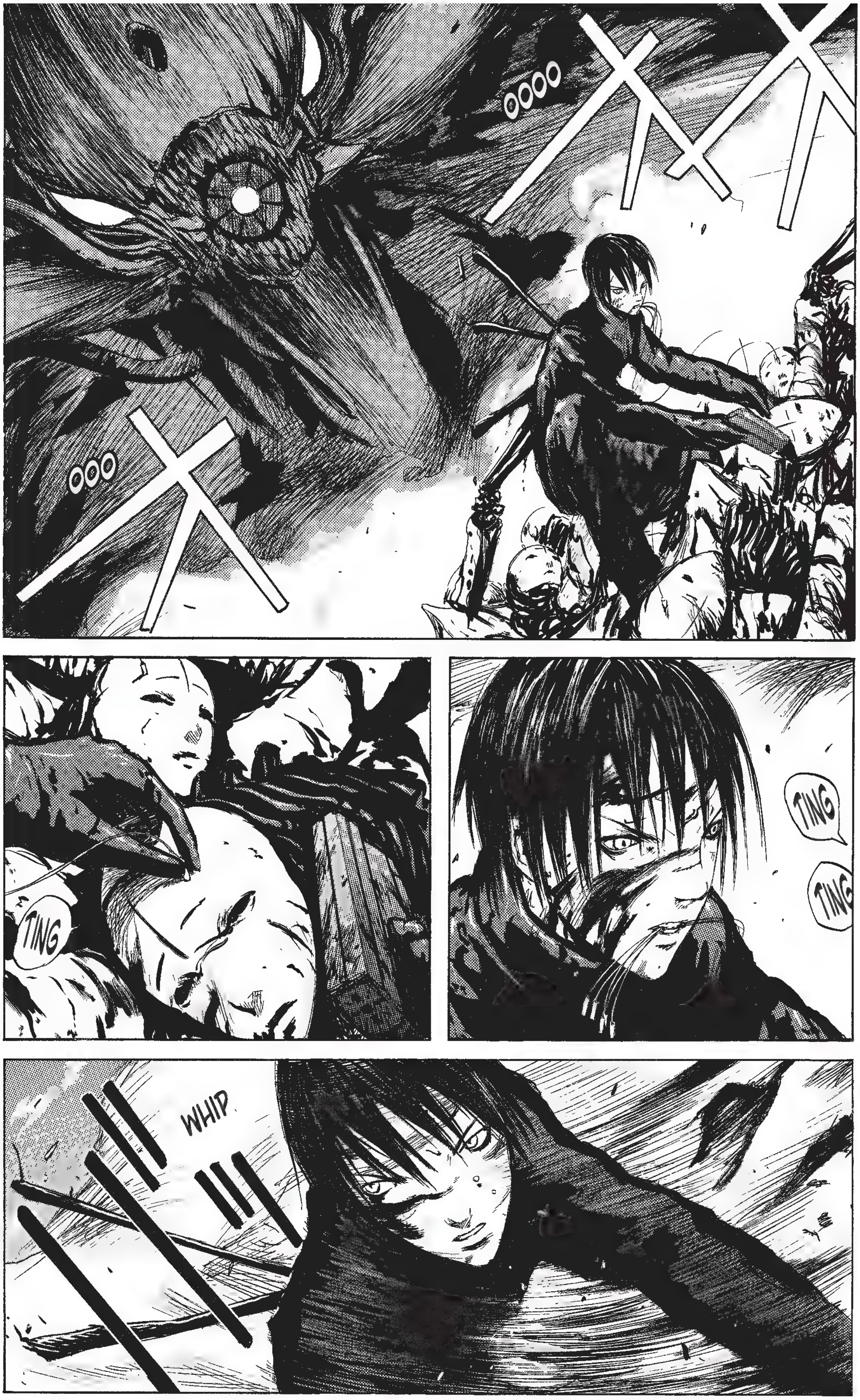

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM!?
BLAM
ZURU! COME ON!

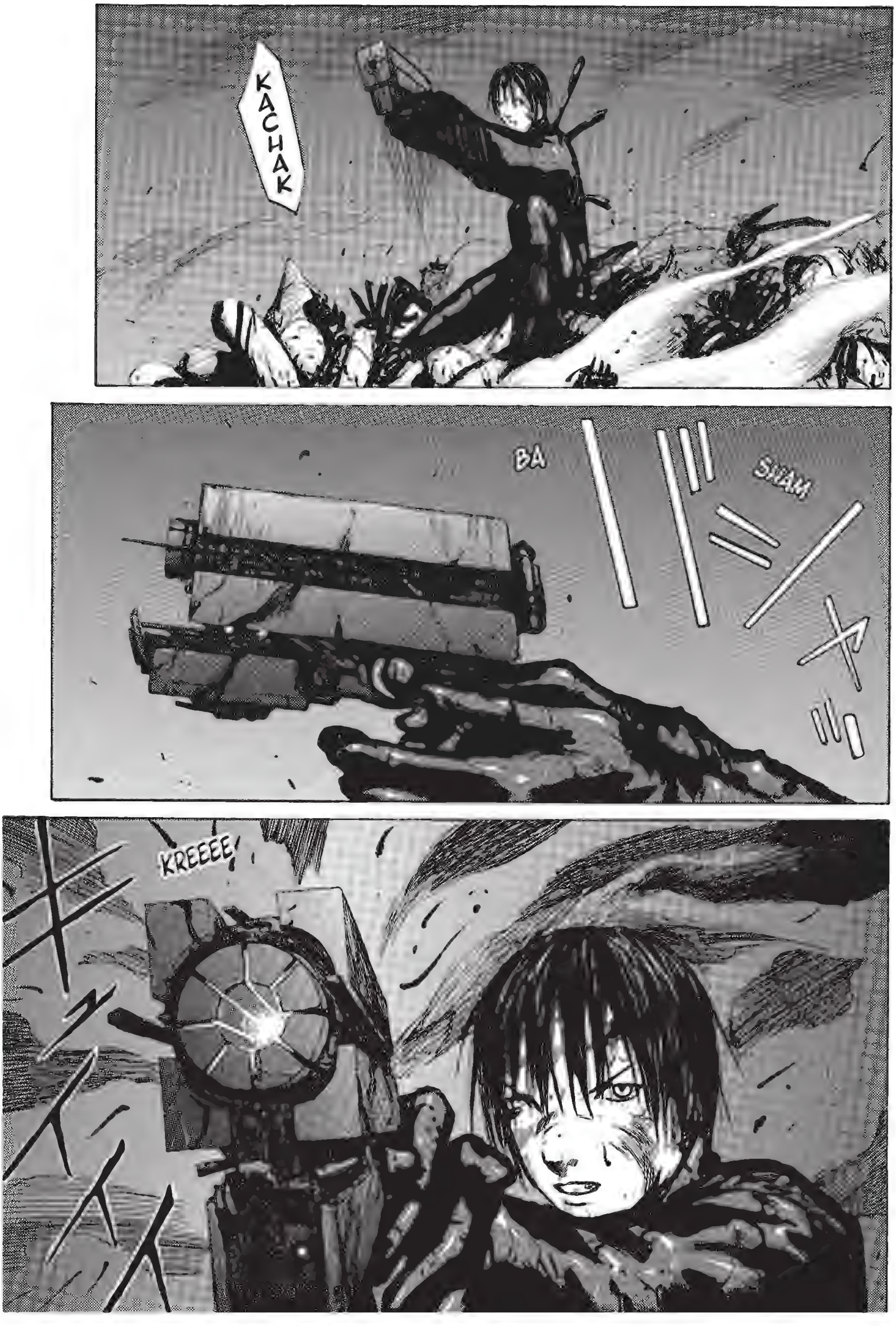

GRRRR
...
BWOOSH
BAM
BOOM

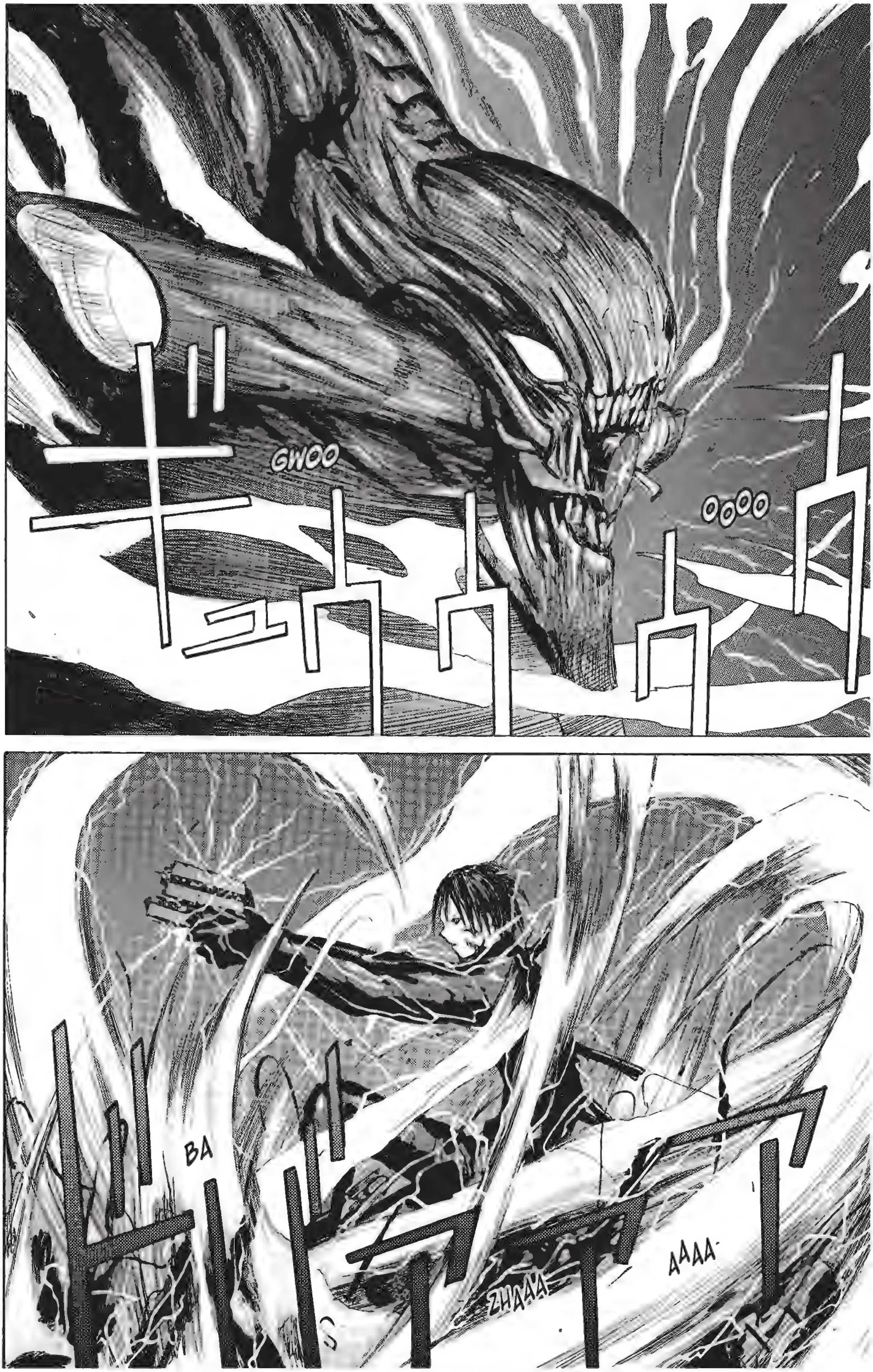

GLARE

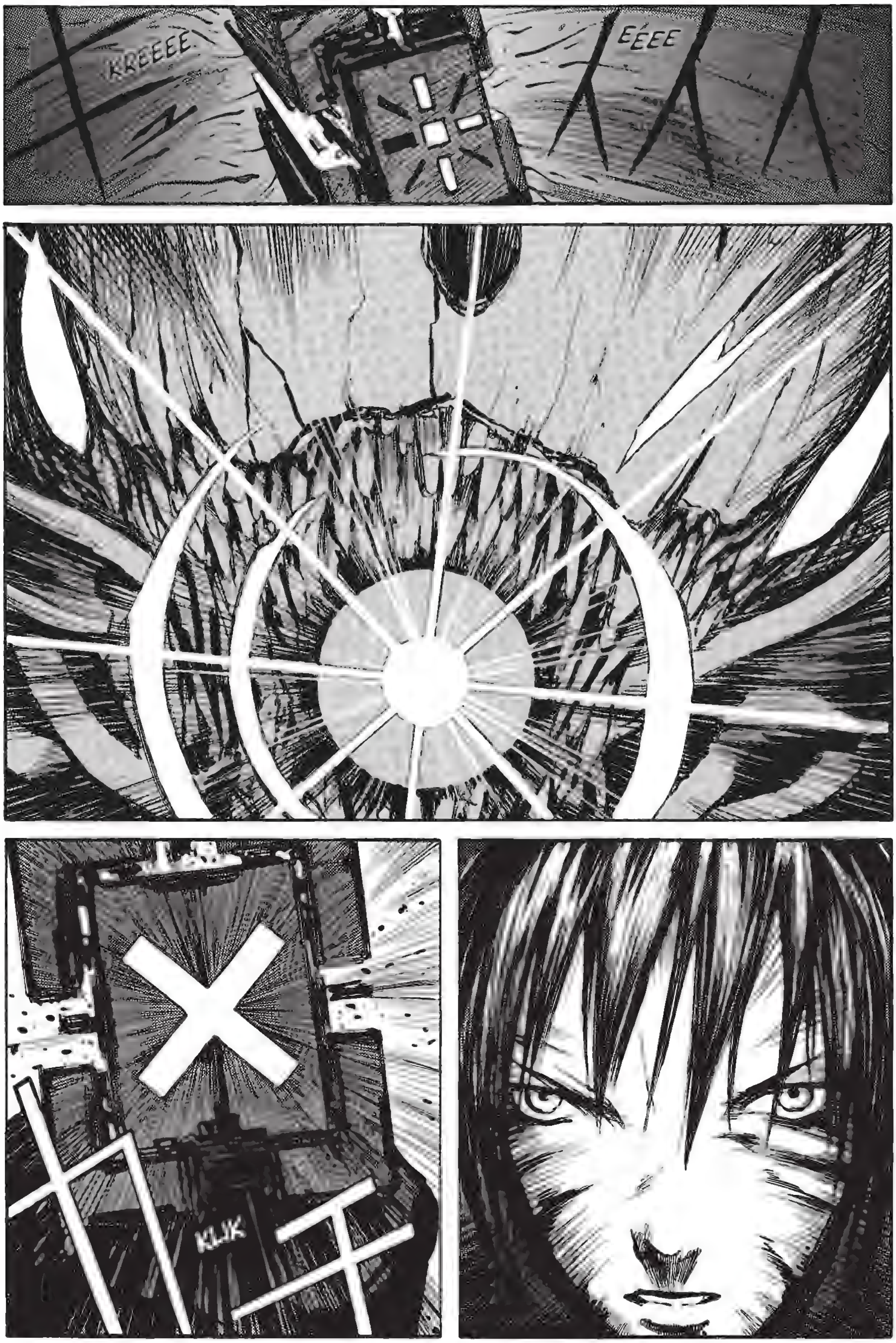

HAA
HAA
バギン
BA
KLINK
KLIK KLIK
위험
PELIGRO
LIMIT CANCEL
ATYPICAL EMISSION
⚠위험 OBS!
⚠위험
リミットキャンセル
OBS!
ATENTION DANGER ATTENZIONE! ⚠
RESTRICTION LIFTED
WAARSCHUWING
LIMIT OFF ⚠ 非通常射出⚠
ATTENZIONE!
LIMIT CANCEL
ATTENZIONE!
OBS!
OBS!

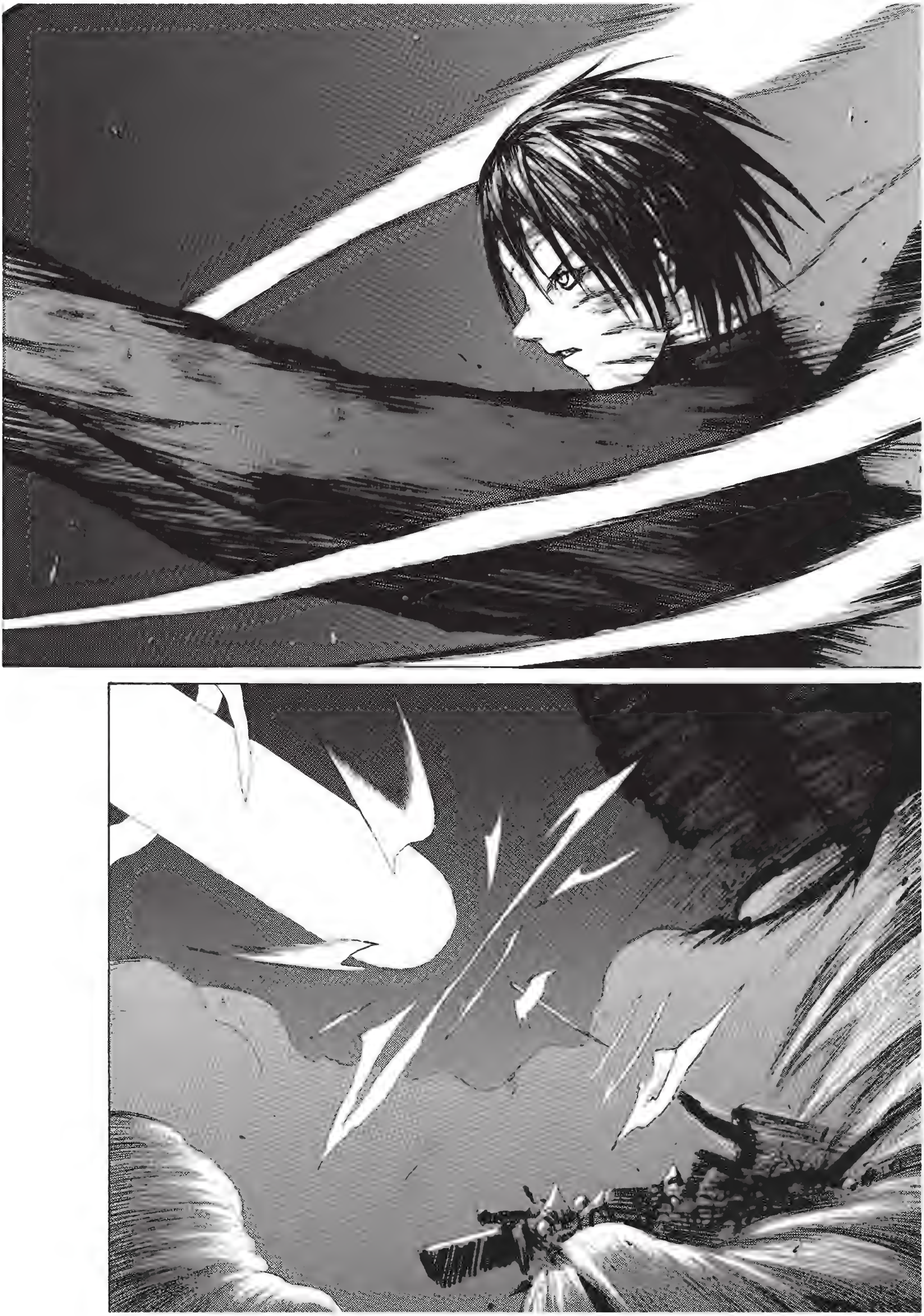

SHWIP
ゴオ
VWOOO
オオ
OOO

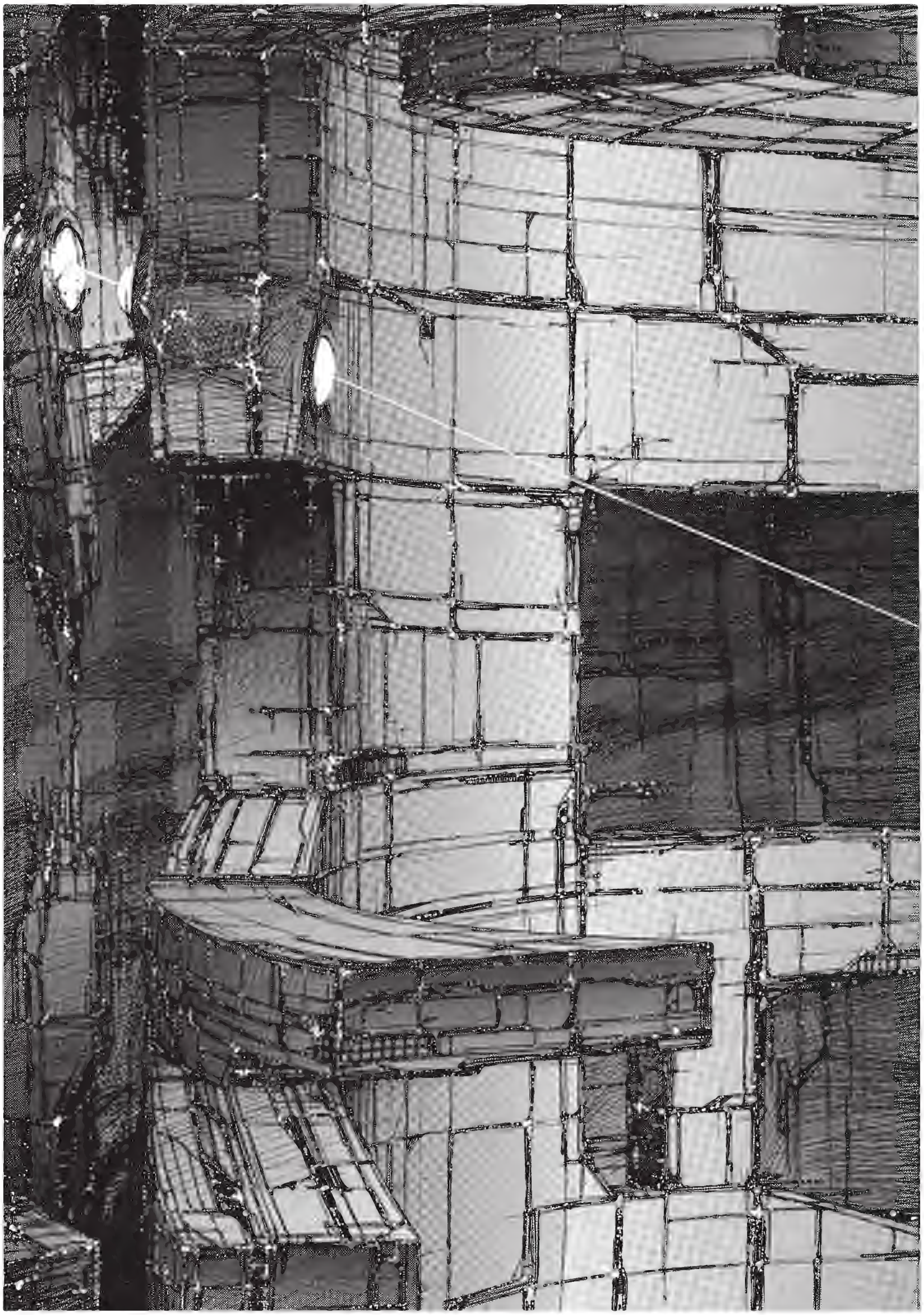

OOOO
OOO
TING
TING
TING
WHIP

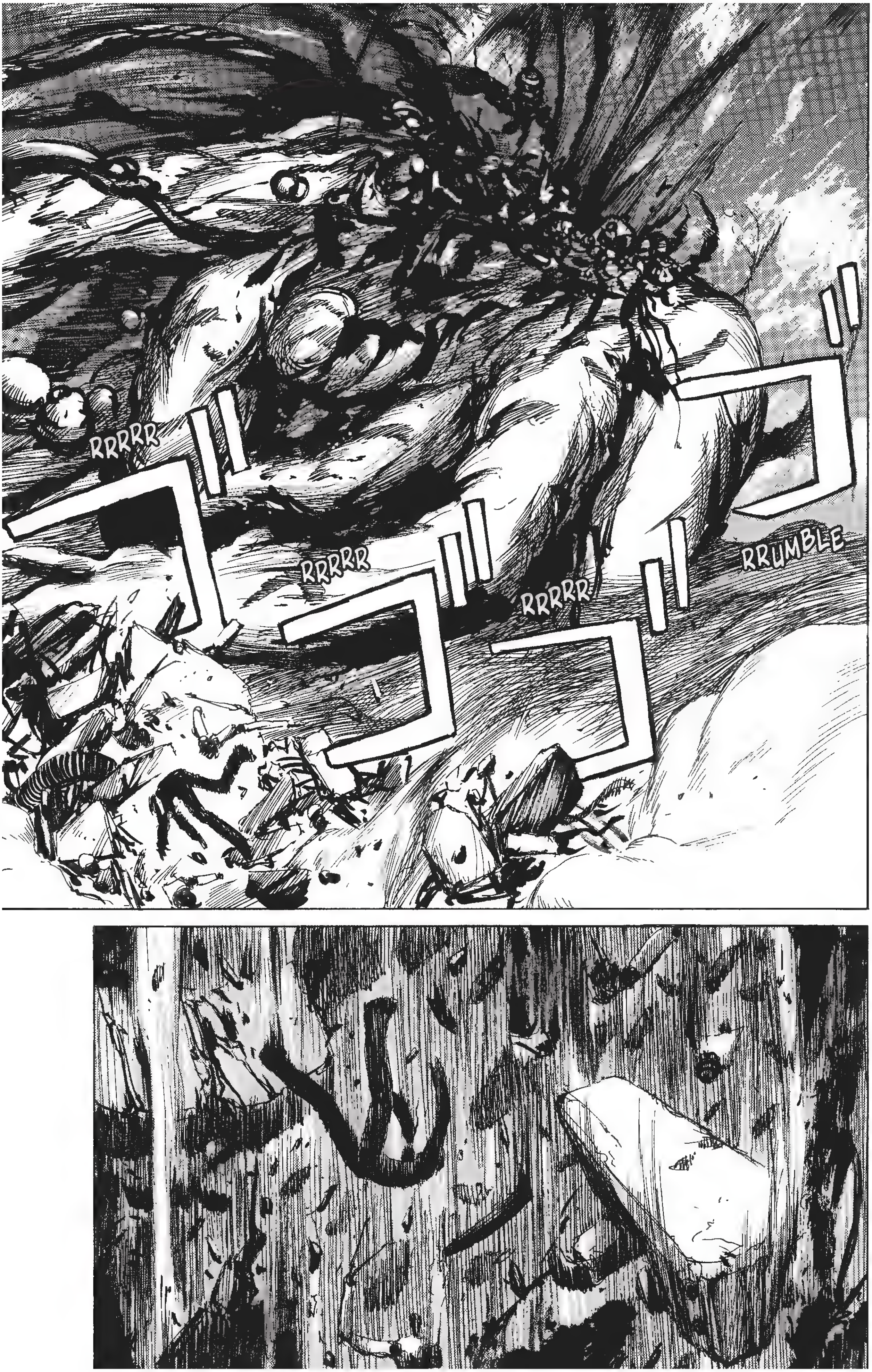

KACHAK
BA
SHAM
KREEEE


GWOO
OOOO
BA
ZHAAA
AAAA


KREEEE
EEEE
KLIK



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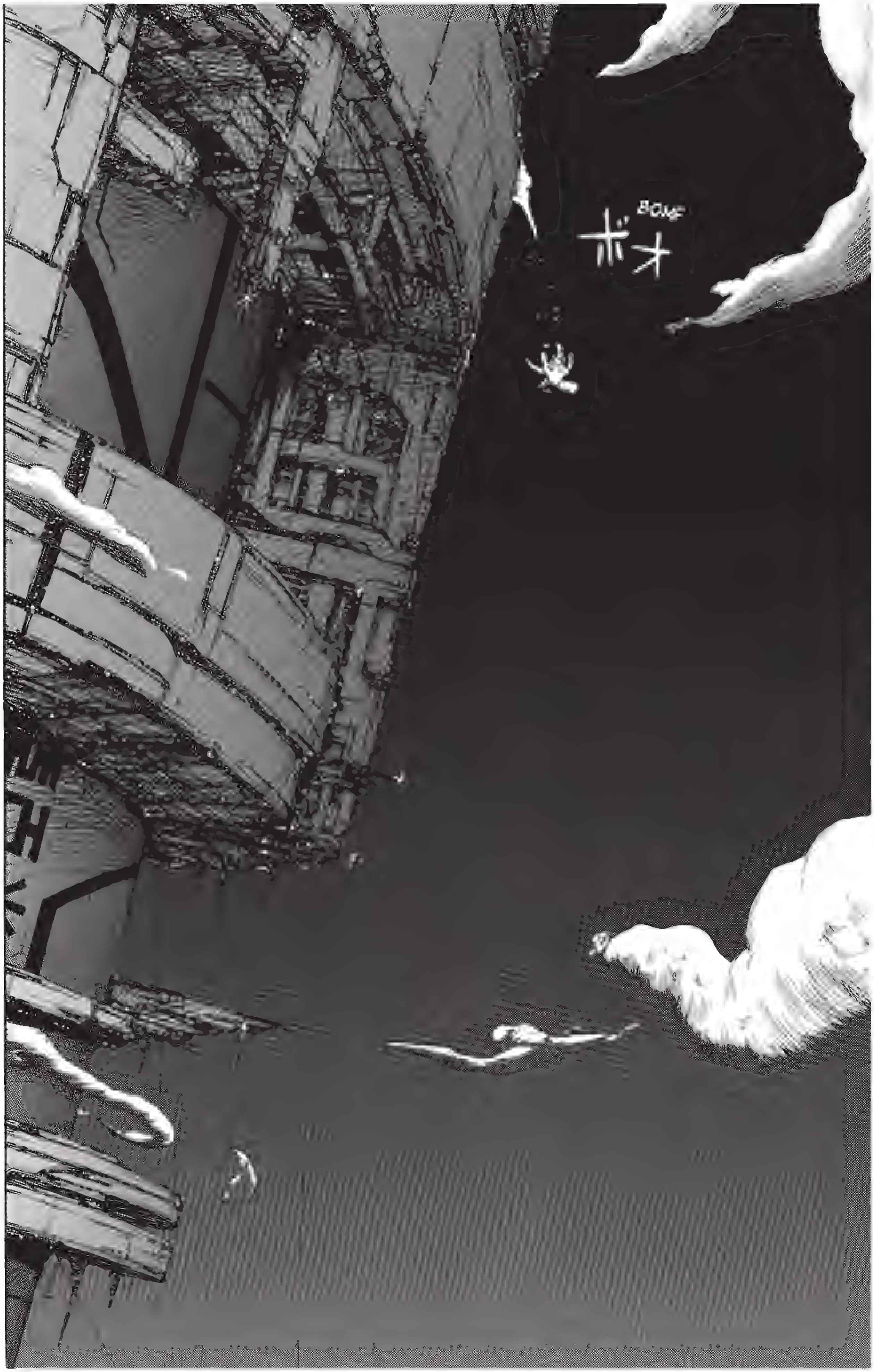
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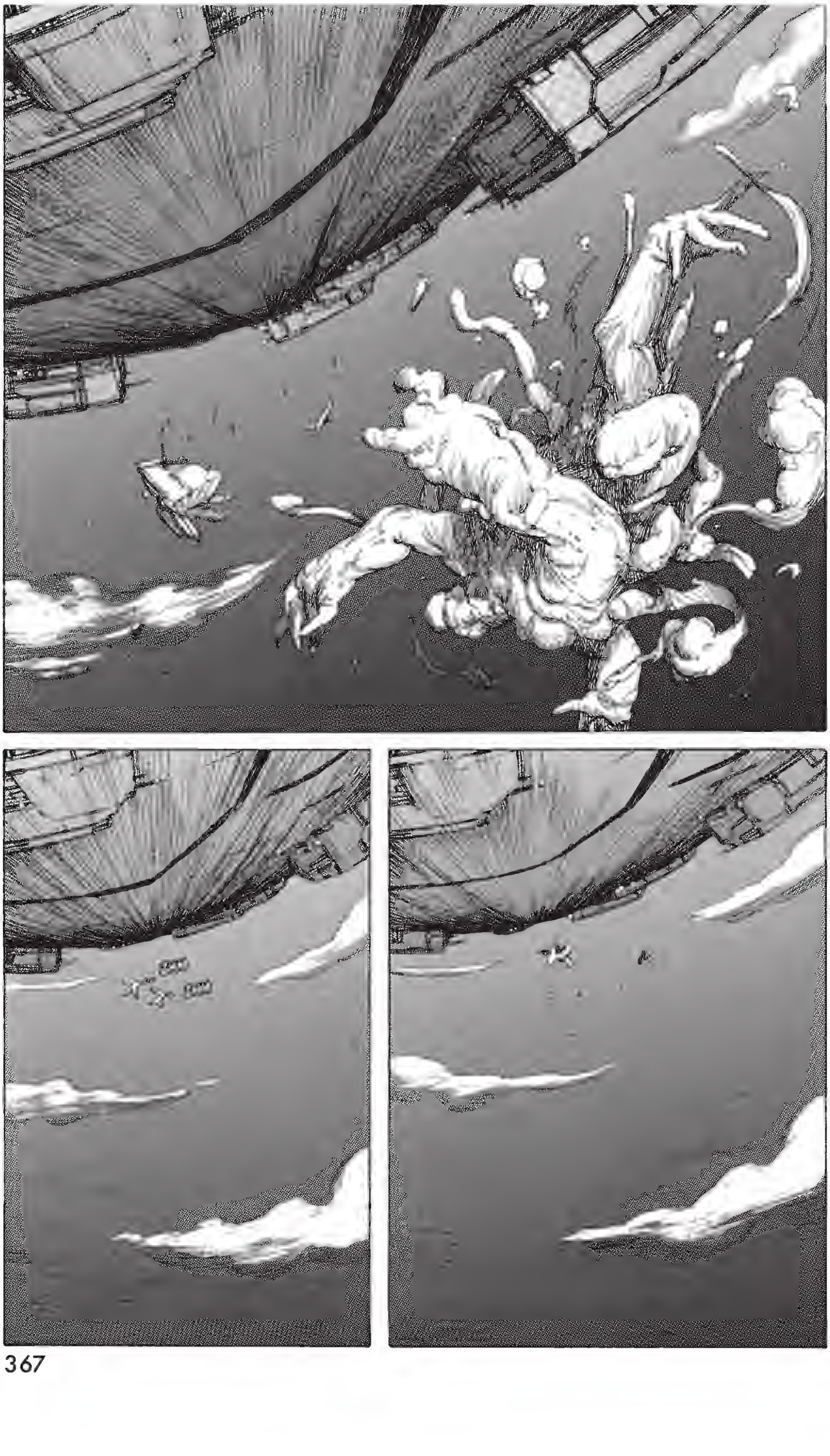

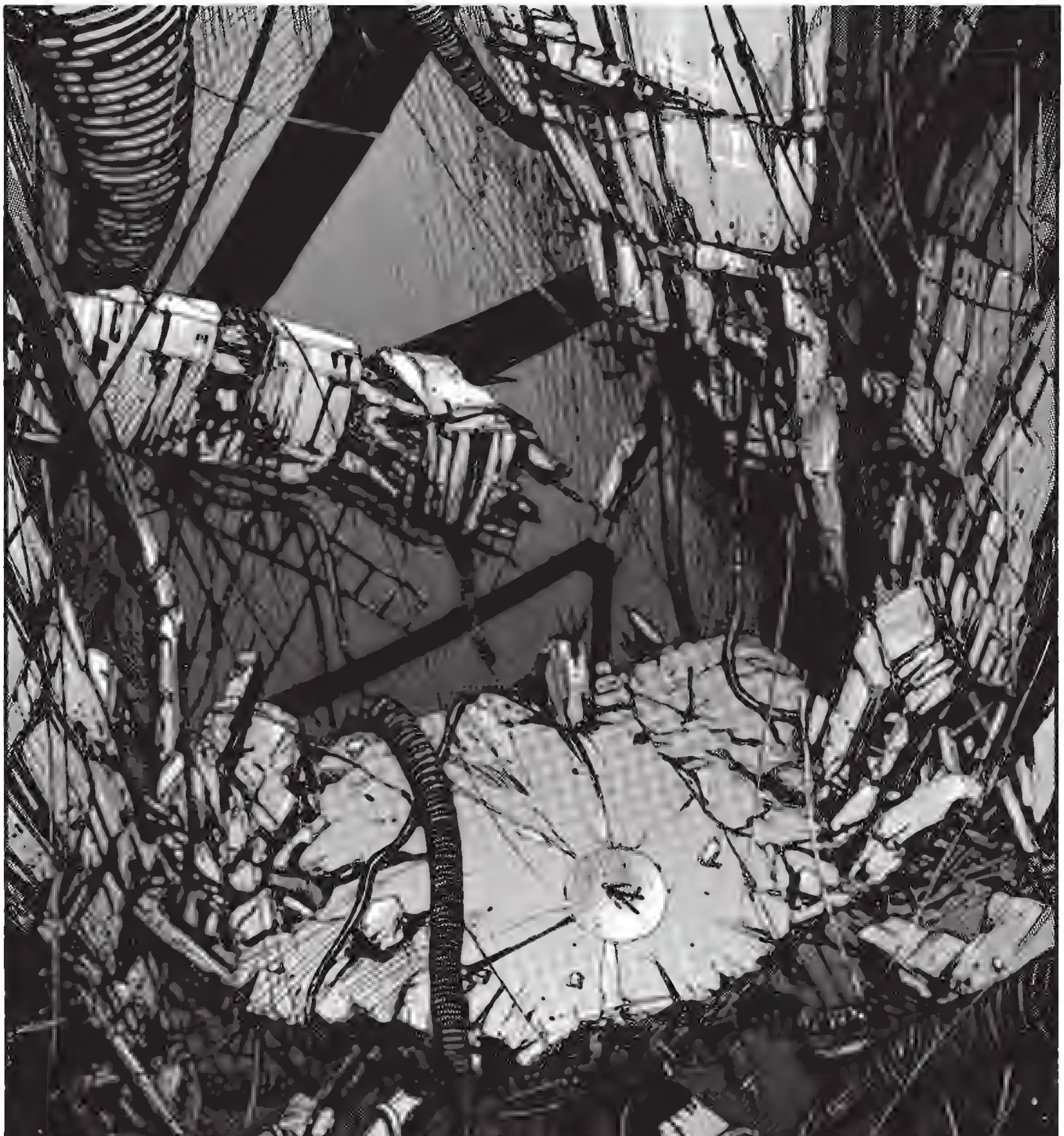

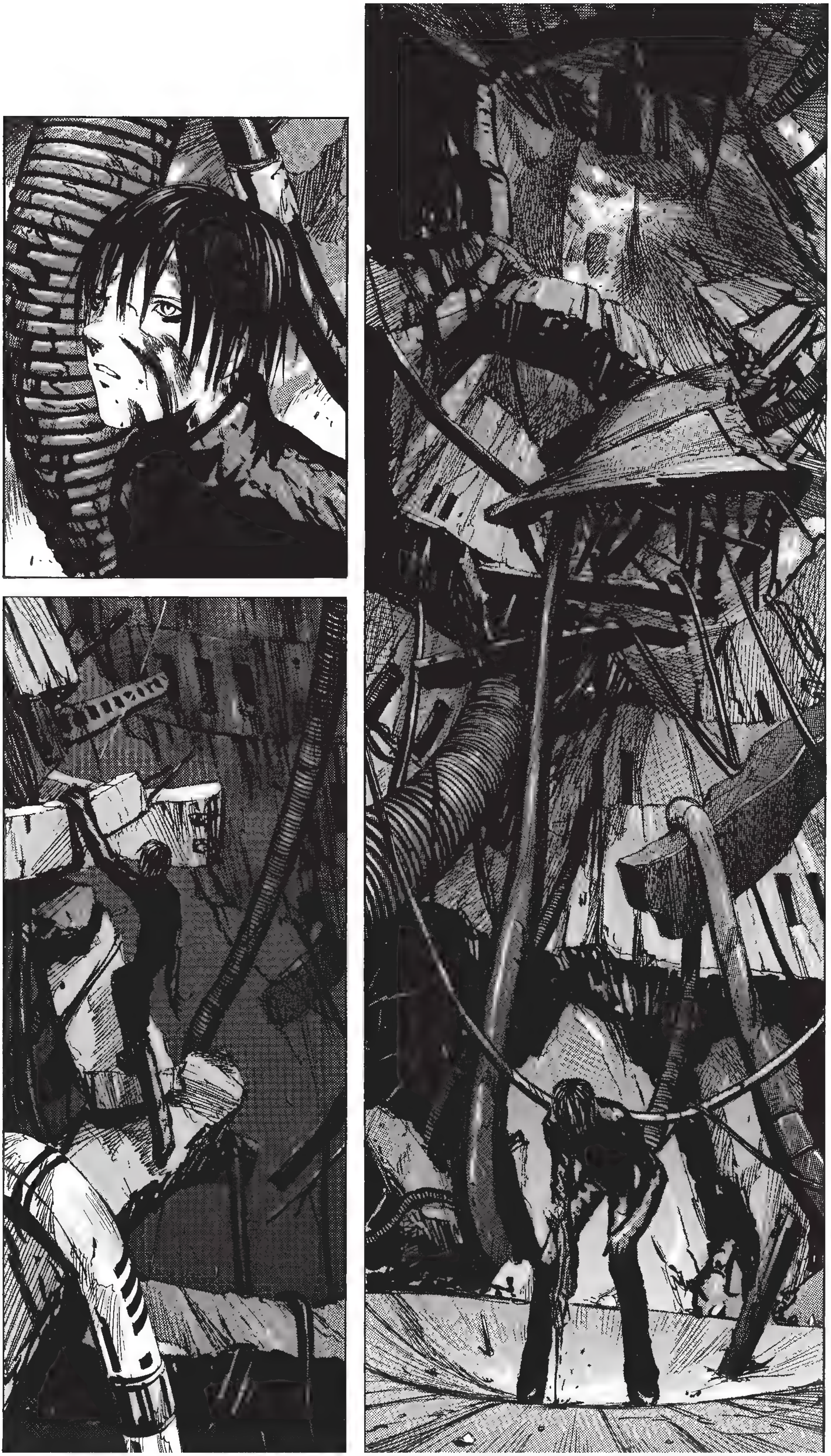

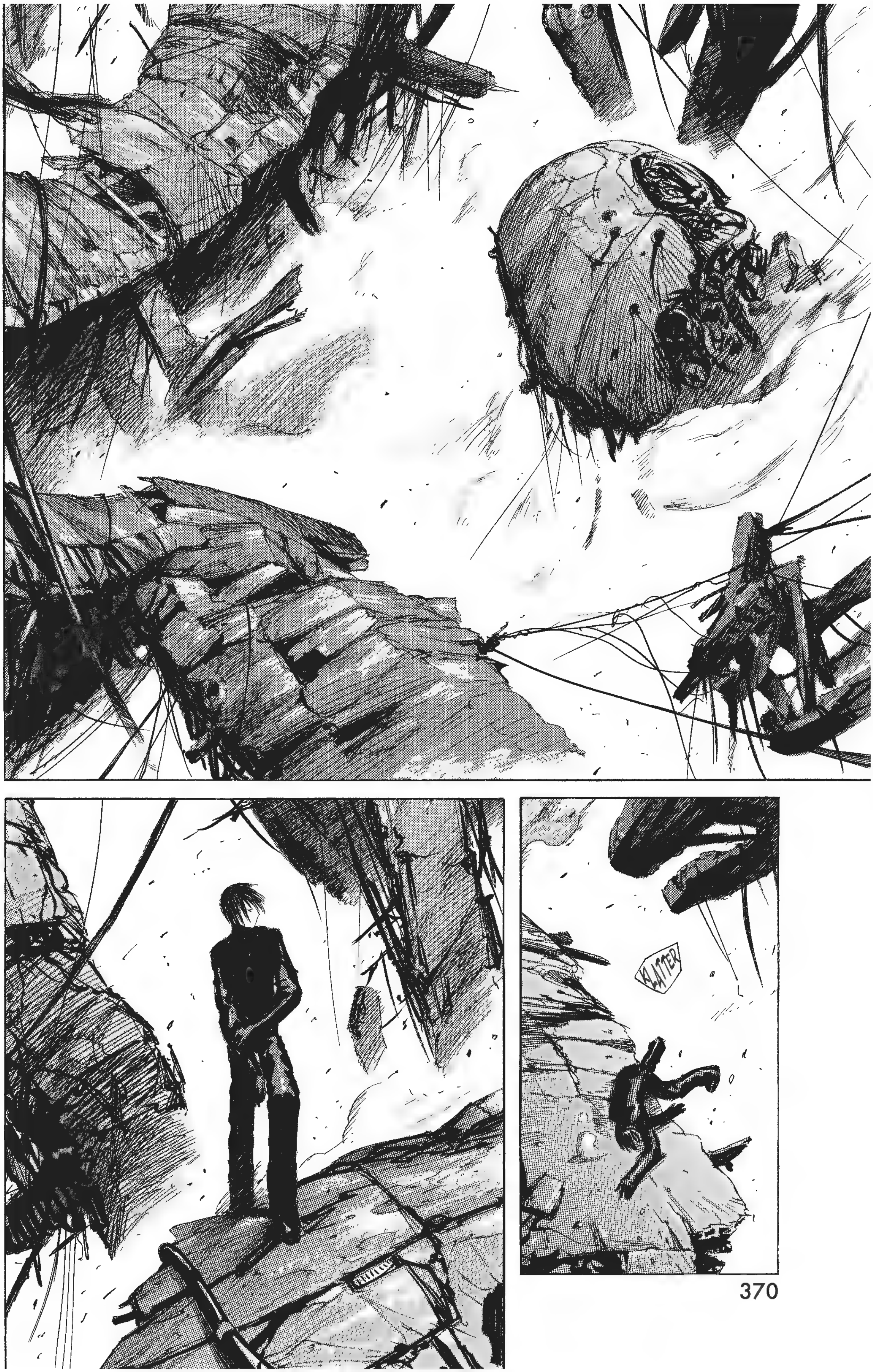
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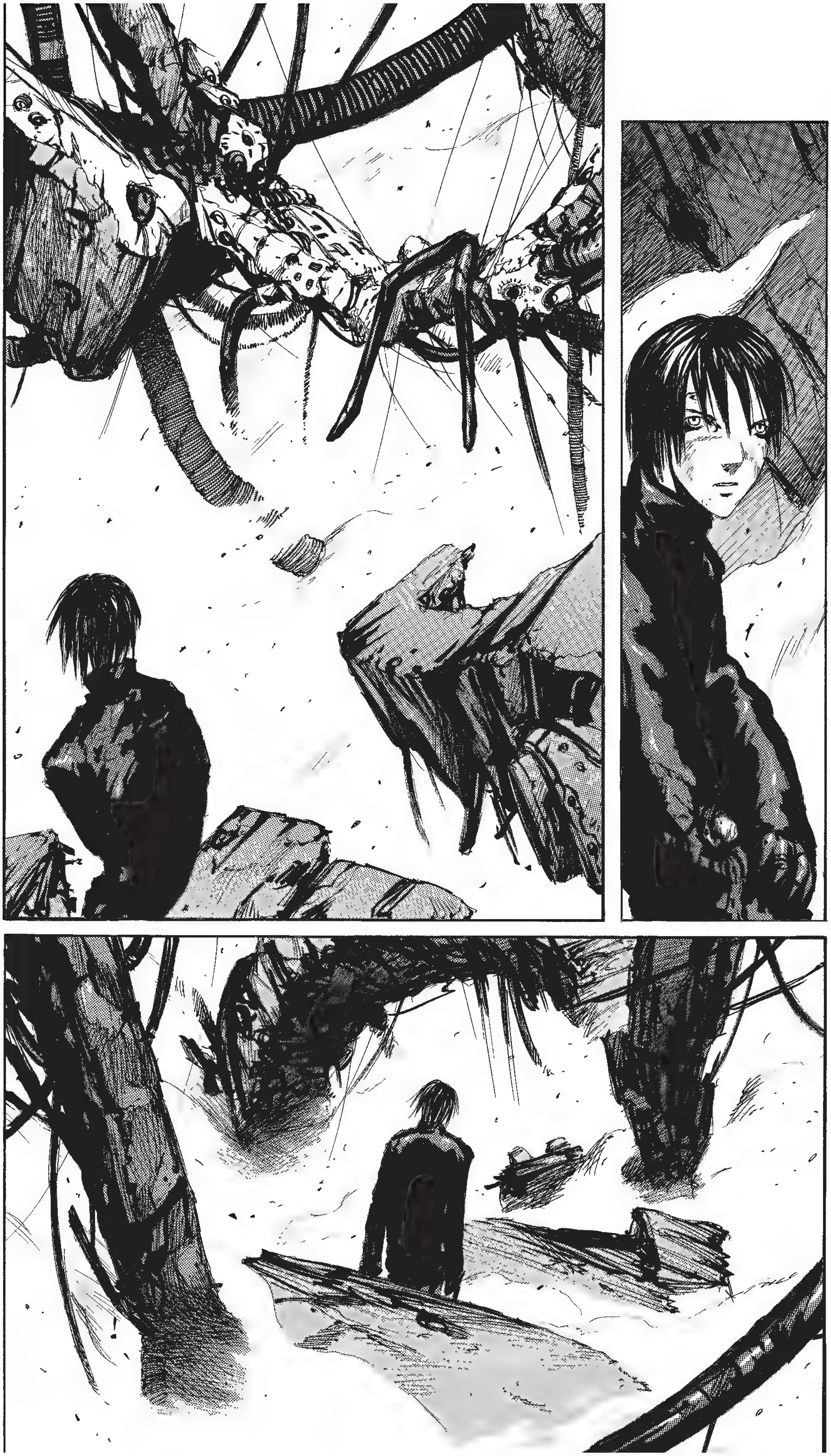

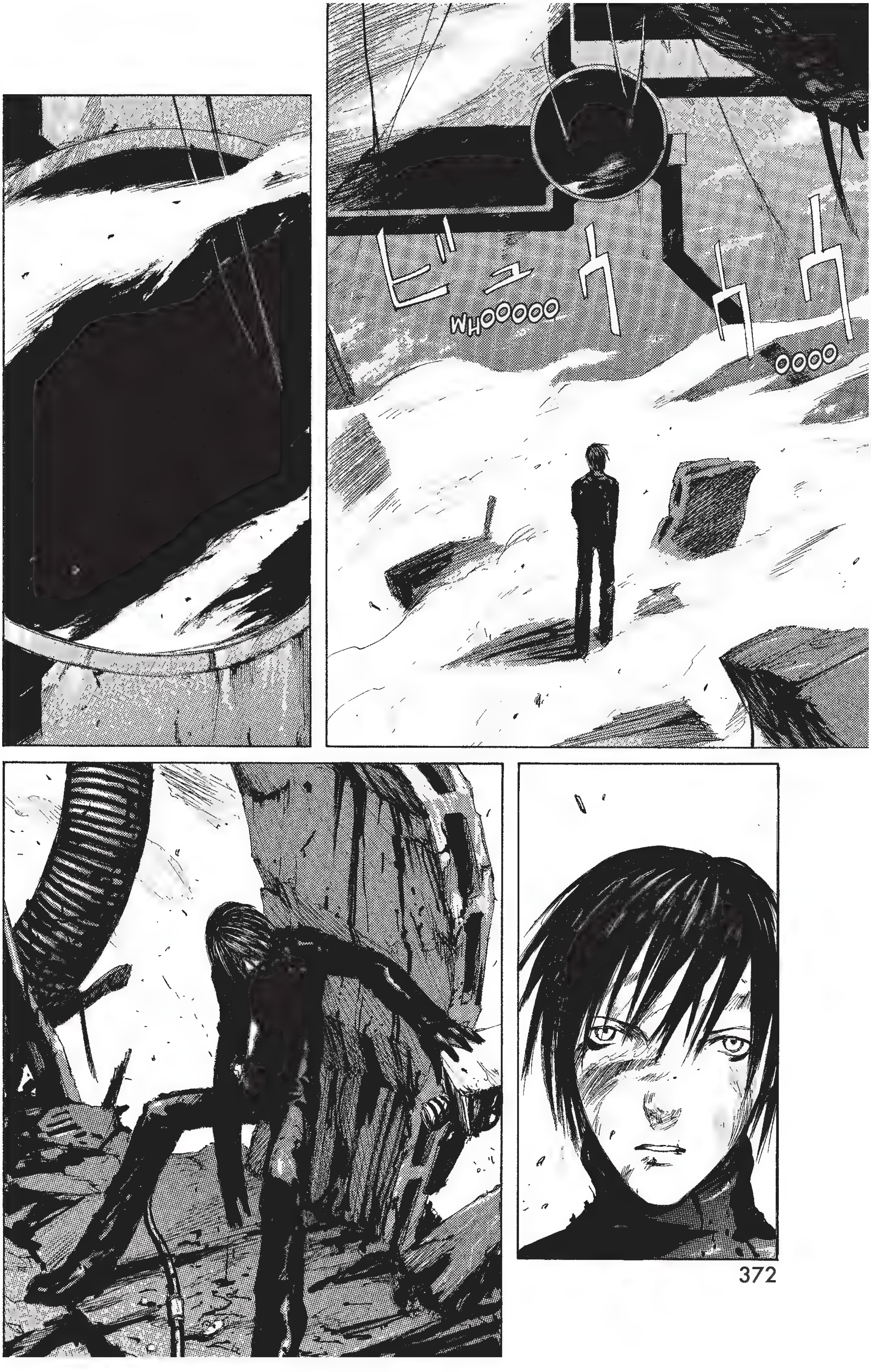
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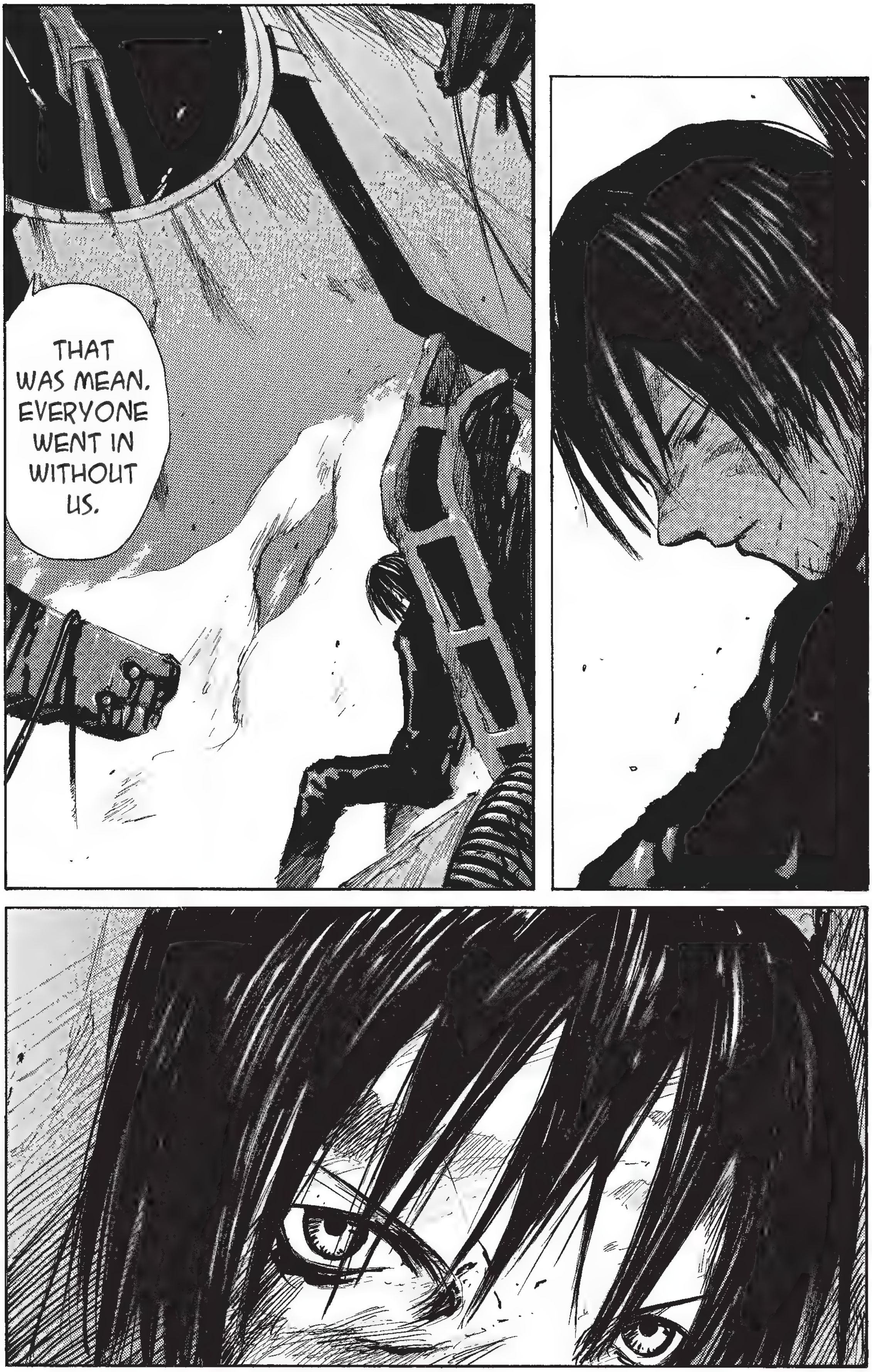
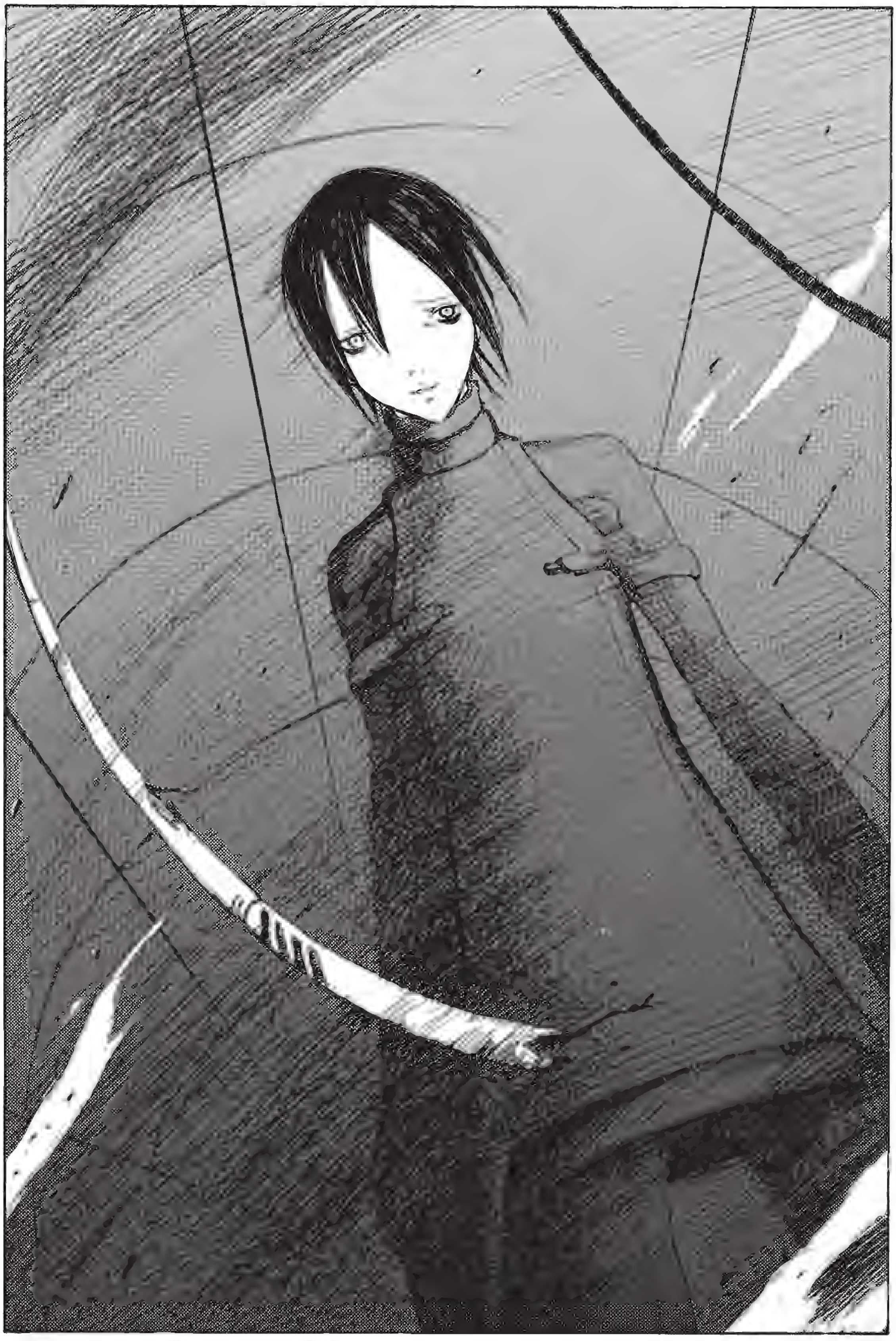

THAT WAS MEAN. EVERYONE WENT IN WITHOUT US.



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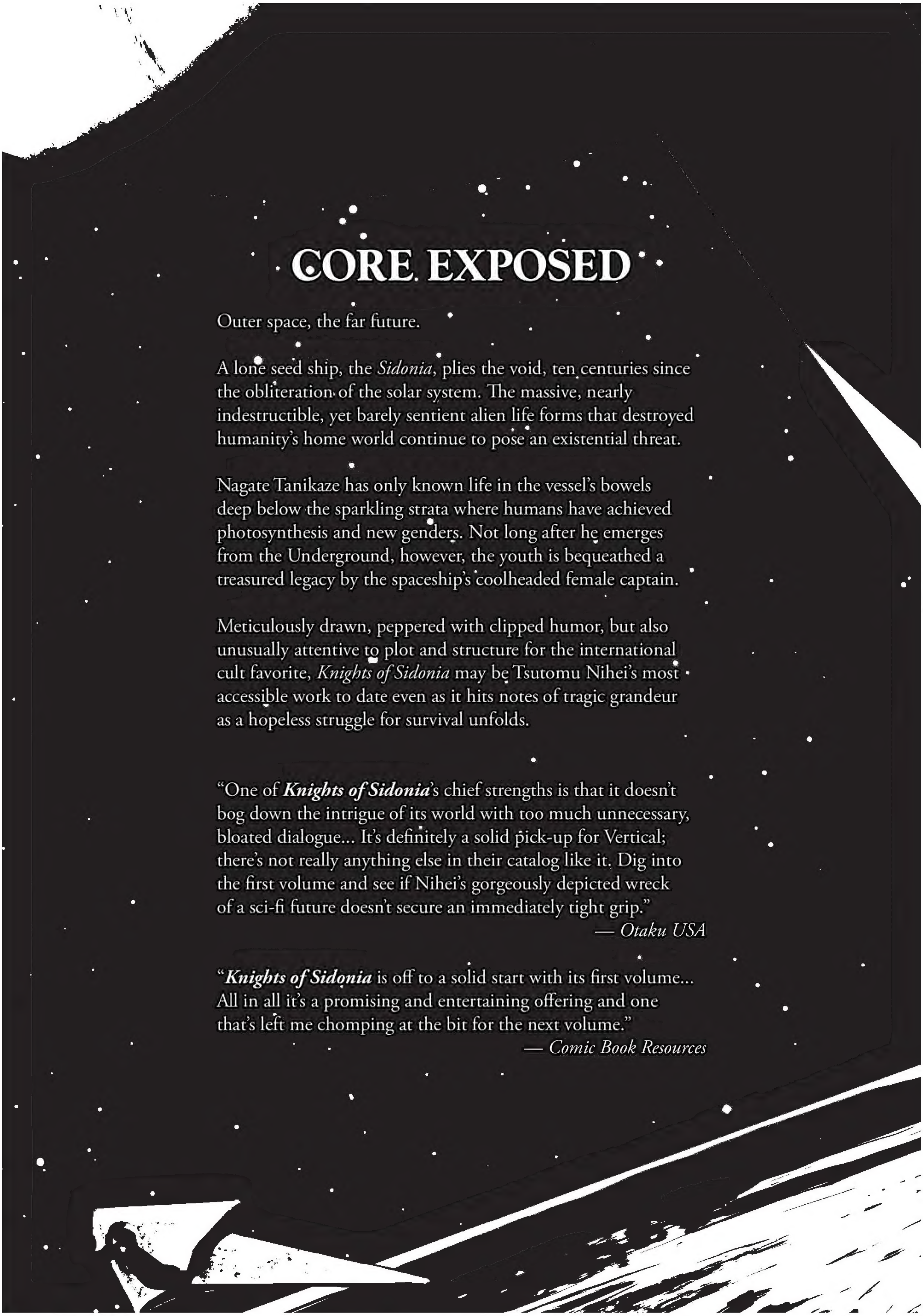

CORE EXPOSED

Outer space, the far future.

A lone seed ship, the *Sidonia*, plies the void, ten centuries since the obliteration of the solar system. The massive, nearly indestructible, yet barely sentient alien life forms that destroyed humanity's home world continue to pose an existential threat.

Nagate Tanikaze has only known life in the vessel's bowels deep below the sparkling strata where humans have achieved photosynthesis and new genders. Not long after he emerges from the Underground, however, the youth is bequeathed a treasured legacy by the spaceship's coolheaded female captain.

Meticulously drawn, peppered with clipped humor, but also unusually attentive to plot and structure for the international cult favorite, *Knights of Sidonia* may be Tsutomu Nihei's most accessible work to date even as it hits notes of tragic grandeur as a hopeless struggle for survival unfolds.

"One of ***Knights of Sidonia***'s chief strengths is that it doesn't bog down the intrigue of its world with too much unnecessary, bloated dialogue... It's definitely a solid pick-up for Vertical; there's not really anything else in their catalog like it. Dig into the first volume and see if Nihei's gorgeously depicted wreck of a sci-fi future doesn't secure an immediately tight grip."

— *Otaku USA*

"***Knights of Sidonia*** is off to a solid start with its first volume... All in all it's a promising and entertaining offering and one that's left me chomping at the bit for the next volume."

— *Comic Book Resources*

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